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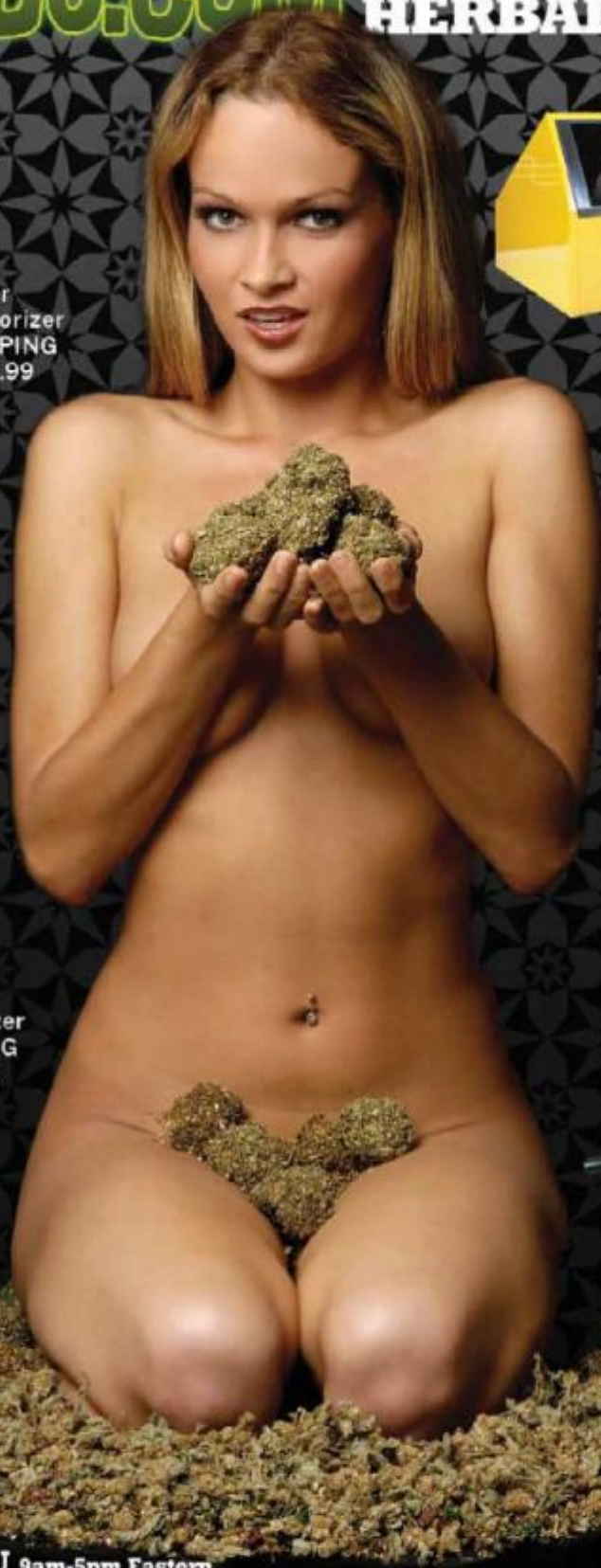
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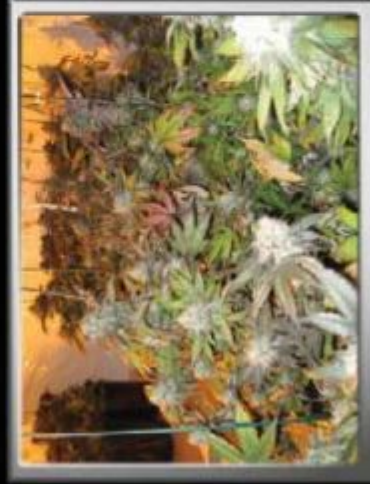
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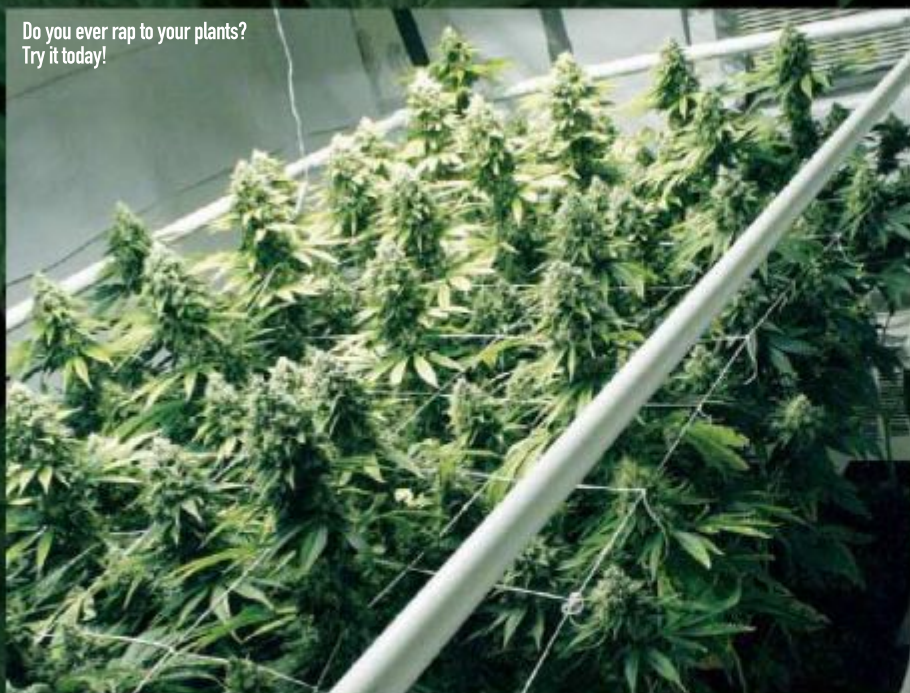
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NICO ESCONDIDO

Que tal, amigos!

Well, what is there to say? By now, you surely know the drill: It's February, and that means it's time for our annual hydro issue. In fact, it's HIGH TIMES' 10th Annual Hydro Report—a testament to just how alive and well the water-world of hydroponics still is!

For me—a guy whose first system ever was a homemade hydro kit that used pretzel jars as reservoirs—it's always fun to check out the new gear out there and go over some of the basics of today's hydroponic grow techniques. This year's issue is especially heavy on the hydro theme, since we have an action-packed 12 pages of beginner hydro stuff plus an added bonus: coverage of the year's big hydro convention in North America!

So, like I said: What else is there really to say? Oh, yeah, actually, there is just one more thing—some *grow-a-tree*, of course. (It's like *poetry*, but about growing weed!) It wouldn't be a complete hydro issue without it, now would it? So, back by popular demand, I give you ...

'Dro Your Own

It's that time again.
Feeling like it ain't a sin
To sing this song
While loadin' up my bong.

Getting down with our yearly show,
Putting down words 'bout startin' up some high-'dro!

Don't be afraid,
Let the water cascade.
It ain't no field
But you know about the yield ...

Soon the buds will swell.
You can't conceal the smell.
And then you start to freak
Until the nugs are at their peak.

And now you remember,
It's like those buds in September.
Only this is how we grow
When the seasons bring the snow.
It's an indoor game, so get down with some 'dro!

Hasta la proxima vez,

Nico Escondido

Nico Escondido
Cultivation Editor

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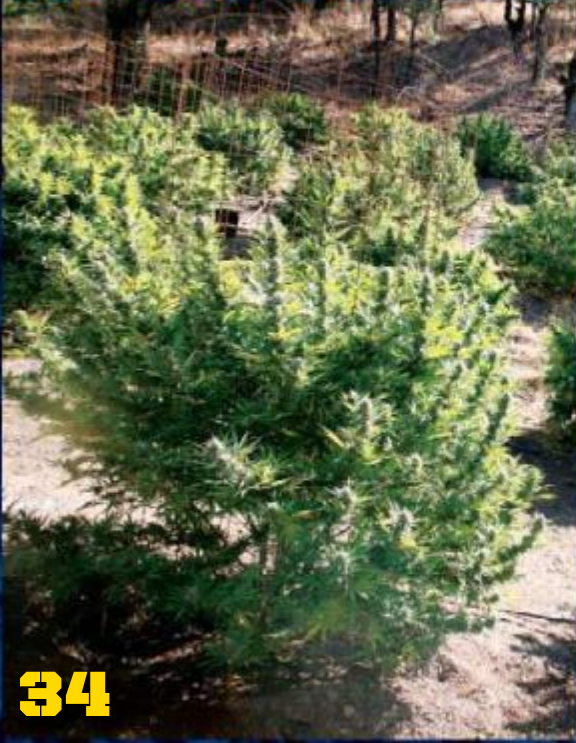
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HIGH TIMES



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features

34 HIGH IN THE HILLS BY DAN SKYE

This past fall, Northern California pulled in another record outdoor harvest despite the efforts of law enforcement to curb the growers. But though the federal government continues to lose its war on cannabis, it shows no signs of reaching a peace agreement.

42 THE GREAT HYDRO EXPO

BY NICO ESCONDIDO

It's been a minute since we got you this coverage, but now that it's here it's sure to stay. With the latest and greatest in indoor gardening technology, HIGH TIMES brings you the news from North America's largest gear convention. Held in California every year, this is one event you won't want to miss if you're serious about growing.

46 10TH ANNUAL HYDRO REPORT

BY NICO ESCONDIDO

It's that time of year again and this year we've formulated our Hydro issue for the beginner grower who wants bulging buds right from the start. Everything from system types, to grow mediums, to nutrients is covered in detail in this 12-page whopper. It's the how-to's and why-not's of hydroponic gardening. Plus, as an added bonus, a few lucky readers get their hydro Q's answered by our Cultivation Editor.

64 FRESH PHISH

BY DAVID BIENENSTOCK

Jump back in the water and get funky when the biggest, best, strangest and stoniest jamband on Earth returns this Spring!

72 HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW:

RICHARD LEE BY CHRIS SIMUNEK

Marijuana has changed the face of downtown Oakland, mostly due to the efforts of Richard Lee, whose cannabis-friendly businesses include the Coffeshop Blue Sky medical dispensary, and Oaksterdam University. See why Oakland is considered America's answer to Amsterdam.



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departments

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EDITED BY DAN SKYE

Herban myths; Cocaine subs; Stone Age stoners; Amy Winehouse's toxic pot disease; Drug Czar hyperbole; CEO for pot; Chronic Tea; Arnold vetoes med-pot; Beauty queen blues; Glass exhibition; Showbuzz; Headaches and LSD; Win the Drug War in 24 steps; Gettman's gospel; Slightly Stoopid, Golden Animals, Lionize, Grupo Fantasma, Reviews, Brain Damage Report, Almost Infamous, Vaporella, Miss HIGH TIMES.

81 growworld

EDITED BY DANNY DANKO & NICO ESCONDIDO

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110 next month

116 pot 40

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INDICAS VS. SATIVAS

First off, I love your magazine. The interviews, articles, pictures and especially Miss HIGH TIMES are all phenomenal! So don't listen to any negative input you receive because you're all doing great. Second, could you tell me why *indicas* are seemingly so much more popular than *sativas*? From what I've read about the difference in effects between *sativas* and *indicas* you'd think that they'd BOTH be pretty popular smokes. Last, but not least, how can I tell if the buds I picked up are *sativa* or *indica*?



El Bandito

Indicas are the preference of commercial growers because they produce bigger buds that finish faster. But *sativas* remain the preference of many growers. *Indica* buds are larger, denser and more closely clustered, while *sativa* buds are typically more wispy and have longer gaps between flowers. Truth be told, most strains available from indoor gardens are *indica-sativa* hybrids and the evolution of desire has really been more about taste than plant pedigrees.

REPUBLISH FIRST ISSUE?

That was an outstanding tribute to Thomas King Forçade in the November issue. As I read it, I thought of a friend of mine who had recently come down from the hills to show me samples of his new crop. While he was here and we enjoyed his garden, he mentioned to me that he had every HIGH TIMES except the first one. I thought I might find a copy online as a gift for him, and then your article came out on Forçade. I thought that you might like to republish Issue #1 Vol. #1 in a Special Collector's Edition. I promise to buy one (or many more as gifts), and I predict that it could be your biggest-selling issue of all (High) times. Christmas is coming up, so this could be perfect timing. Let me know what you think. I thought it was a brilliant idea—even when I woke up after sleeping off my latest medicine.

Dave Morgan

MORE SALVIA?

The November issue was kind of light on content—could it be you guys aren't smoking enough grass? Also, I would like to see in-depth reporting on highs besides pot—namely salvia, LSD and mushrooms. After all, you *are* HIGH TIMES, not "Pot Times."

*Mike
Wichita, Kansas*

**MARIJUANA
MUSIC AWARDS**

I think it would be dope if you did a small article on the Marijuana Music Awards. A friend of mine submitted some music but got beat by the Individuals—another awesome group from Chi-town! Anyway, even if you don't write anything about the awards, I think it'd be cool if you guys printed a list of the award winners in an issue of the mag.

I'm sure a lot of people would be into seeing that as well.

prophecy

JOHNNY POTSEED

What would happen if every stoner in the world threw all their seeds everywhere that they went—like sidewalks, highways, parks, yards, etc.?

gr8

CAPE OF GOOD DOPE

I am from sunny South Africa, and I would like to comment on your article, "Cape of Good Dope." I've been growing indoors for the past eight years, and I can tell you that the genetics in Africa suck! I've been getting all my genetics from Serious Seeds and Dutch Passion. It's very difficult for growers to get together here, because nobody trusts anybody and most South Africans don't even know what sinsemilla is.

Owen S.

LOW TIMES

My name is Sari Elhajnasr. I am 20 years of age, and I was born in Manteca, CA. My mom is American and my dad is Palestinian. A month ago, I was incarcerated under charges of distributing marijuana in Amman, Jordan. I haven't seen a judge yet, but they want to sentence me for up to seven years. When they brought me into interrogation, they beat me with whips and pipes, cuffed my arms under my legs, put a metal pipe under my knees, hung me from a desk and beat my feet with a stick. They didn't let me see a doctor for two weeks (until all the bruises were gone).

mauibmxpunk@hotmail.com

THANKS, HT

When I started smoking the green, I thought it was shameful: "Not everyone does it." BULL SNAP! Most people do. Maybe not everyone does it. But I only know two people within the ages of 18 and 25 who don't. I'm just saying, I once was blind, but now I see.... Thank you HIGH TIMES for liberating me. Today I went to norml.org and found my representatives in Congress. I copied the link and sent it to over 20 people so they, too, can help Wisconsin understand, and after that...the world.

Cayla

MISS HT NOT SUB-PAR

Props to Bobby Black for speaking up for the Miss HIGH TIMES girls. I think they were all very cute and what one would expect from that kind of contest, and definitely not sub-par. The reader obviously overlooked the fact that the entire issue was about the Miss HIGH TIMES girls, as marked on the cover. Never mind the fact that HIGH TIMES put out three different mags that month. You really proved your character there, Bob!

KOLAKING

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WINEHOUSE ON WEED



Recent reports surrounding the pot use of controversial British singer Amy Winehouse hark back to the yellow journalism of the 1930s, when cannabis first was criminalized. Back then, the authorities claimed that pot smoking caused mental insanity. Clearly, journalism hasn't advanced very far.

Winehouse was taken to a London hospital last summer after becoming ill at home. The official cause was an adverse reaction to medication—a completely plausible explanation. Then the coverage went haywire.

Her episode suddenly became a “36-hour weed smoking session” that caused her to suffer uncontrollable vomiting and hallucinations requiring hospitalization. Doctors were concerned that Winehouse may have suffered “brain damage” due to a “cannabis overdose.” An off-the-record “friend” of Winehouse told the press that the singer had suffered “acute cannabis poisoning” due to all the pot she consumed.

Give us a break! There's no medical validity to any of these diagnoses. According to experts ranging from CannabisMD.net to *The New England Journal of Medicine*, toxicity is essentially nonexistent in natural, non-adulterated cannabis. Toxicity levels for cannabis compounds are estimated at 40,000, meaning that a smoker would have to ingest 40,000 times the regular dose to induce death. That would mean smoking almost 1,500 pounds of marijuana within 15 minutes. Not even a party monster like Winehouse could pull that off.

While cannabis use may act as a catalyst for a latent mental illness (such as causing anxiety attacks), there is absolutely no clinical evidence that pot directly precipitates any mental illness or disorder. As for cannabis causing vomiting, we have our doubts, since pot is associated with relieving the nausea associated with vomiting. And certainly the allegations concerning Amy's use of a variety of mind-altering substances—including heroin, coke and meth—have been well documented.

Ironically, it's pot's benign image that may have led to the cover-up of the original report. It's a lot less scandalous for a star to have a problem with pot than with hard drugs.—Mark Miller

Did Amy's PR flacks tell a fib?

HERBAN MYTHS

At our high headquarters, we hear everything. But not all of it is true. It's time to set the record straight on a few things.

THE TALE	MYTH OR FACT?	HOWEVER ...
A slice of fresh fruit will keep your stash fresh.	MYTH: It will also invite mold—which will also be fresh.	You can use a pot leaf instead, which will allow you to maintain your buds' moisture and flavor thematically!
It's a good idea to pee on your plants.	MYTH: Yuck! And you'd smoke it? While urine does contain nitrogen, plants will die from undiluted piss.	You might just try the traditional method of watering plants.
Putting a dead fish at the bottom of your grow hole provides long-term nutrients.	FACT: Rotting fish releases nitrogen and trace elements necessary for healthy roots. Squanto taught the Pilgrims this—right before they killed him.	The fish should decompose in the hole months before planting.
Pouring soft drinks on your plants will flavor your buds.	MYTH: Are you serious? That stuff is killing <i>you</i> , so imagine what it'll do to your plants.	Molasses and certain sugar-based formulas can enhance natural flavors, but grape Nehi and Mexican schwag seeds won't create Purple Kush.
Holding in a hit gets you higher.	MYTH: Almost all of the THC in a hit is absorbed by your lungs within the first three seconds. After that, you absorb just the other cannabinoids and tars in the weed.	You might pass out and hit your head on the linoleum. Then you'll be stoned, but not high.
Music will enhance the growth of your plants.	FACT: Science has proven through experimentation that plants thrive on music.	Bagpipes and the accordion are lethal.
A bong will get you higher.	MYTH: A 2000 NORML/MAPS study found that “water pipes filter out more psychoactive THC than they do other tars, thereby requiring users to smoke more to reach their desired effect.”	We are still in our laboratories disproving this theory.



The white stuff is this sub's cargo.

'TLL HAVE COKE WITH MY SUB, PLEASE'

Colombian cocaine smugglers are literally in deep hiding. But some have gotten in over their heads!

Over the past year, the US Navy and Coast Guard have captured several so-called “coke subs” or semi-submersible vessels. In September, US forces seized a Colombian coke sub that had departed from Costa Rica. The vessel—which was 59 feet long, made from steel and fiberglass, and operated by a crew of four—had over six and a half tons of coke on board, worth a reported \$187 million; the coke had been tightly packed into 37 bales and then hidden in specially designed compartments. The Coast Guard reported that the submarine was outfitted with sophisticated navigation equipment and could travel from South America to the US coast without stopping for fuel or supplies.

Girls just
wanna have
buds.

MY BEST FRIEND'S GIRL

Throughout history, the use of cannabis by women of all cultures has flourished. And studies and research conducted over the past half-century reveal that women continue to use cannabis therapeutically in childbirth and nursing, as well as for treating post-partum stiffness and menstrual ailments like dysmenorrhea and menorrhagia. Today, modern medicine is increasing its investigation of cannabis for the many clinical conditions that it may be able to address in women.

And, of course, there's no denying its capacity for stimulating eroticism. As the late author Nik Douglas (*Sexual Secrets: The Alchemy of Ecstasy*) wrote: "The spirit of marijuana is female. She is alluring, very seductive. In her presence time passes almost without one noticing. Her sweet fragrance intoxicates the senses and uplifts the mind. She is delighted by heroic men and sensual women. When a couple share marijuana, they are allowing her participation in their relationship. Accepting their invitation, the spirit of marijuana adds spontaneity and humor, and also acts as a potent initiator. By bringing the couple into her dimension, the spirit of marijuana exalts and magnifies both love and sensitivity."

Happy Valentine's Day, everybody!

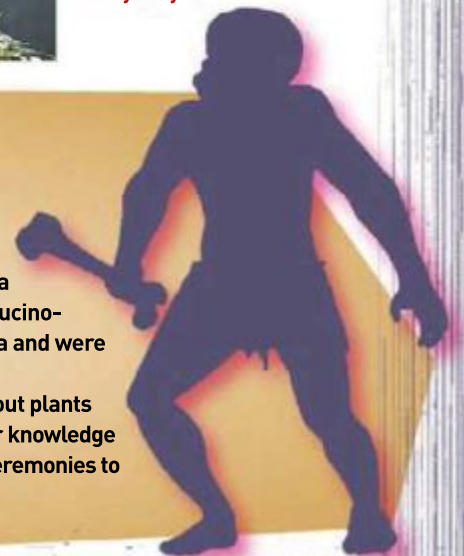


THE STONED AGE

Although the charlatans running the Drug War would have you believe that the quest to alter our consciousness is a relatively new development, humankind has been hot to get high since the early days. And we mean *early*: New proof has been discovered that tribes had an array of prehistoric paraphernalia dating as far back as 400 BC! Archaeologists have recently found ceramic bowls used for preparing hallucinogenic drugs on the Caribbean island of Carriacou. The bowls appear to have originated in South America and were transported 400 miles to the islands. Tubes for inhaling drug fumes or powders were also found.

Although there's a paucity of evidence, it's generally believed that our ancient ancestors first sought out plants and herbs—primarily for the relief of pain due to childbirth or injury—sometime prior to 5000 BC. As their knowledge of plants evolved, those with mind-expanding properties were often used to induce trances or as part of ceremonies to seek assistance from the spirit world—something that would get you busted nowadays.

Thank heavens for civilization!





TEA-RIFIC!

Are you a chronic drinker? You should be—because you'll absolutely love the taste of a Chronic Ice going down.

A new, premium hemp iced tea brewed by Greenlight Beverages, Chronic Ice is delicious but, unfortunately, non-psychoactive. (Damn.) The thirst-quenching concoction includes hemp-seed powder and a special blend of black and green teas. Not only does it taste great, but it's a super-antioxidant—which means you won't rust from the inside. Visit chronicice.com.

Iced tea with a flavor you'll crave.



Hollywood hosts the best glassblowers in the country.

THE ART OF GLASS

On December 5, the *Smoked: Volume 1* book launch and pipe exhibition opened at the Illadelph Glass Gallery in Los Angeles for a month-long engagement. 35 of the country's most visionary pipe makers—glassblowing masters like J.A.G., Marble Slinger, Hops, Chris Carson and Banjo—are featured, showcasing their conceptuality and innovation.

After seeing the wonders of glass art firsthand, you can keep your memories alive by purchasing *Smoked: Volume 1*, a book that captures this innovative smokeware for all time in luscious, high-end photos. It will grace your coffee table for many sessions to come—a true gift of high art! Illadelph Gallery, 7257 Melrose Avenue, Los Angeles, December 5 to January 12, or visit smokedvolume1.com.



Pumping hot air.

GOVERNING LIKE A MUSCLEHEAD

In October, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger (the former action star, steroid user, serial sexual harasser and on-camera toker in *Pumping Iron*) vetoed a bill that would've protected most people in the state from being fired if they tested positive for pot used outside the workplace with their doctor's approval. The bill was designed to overturn a California Supreme Court ruling that neither Prop. 215 nor California's disability-discrimination law requires employers to allow their workers to use drugs banned by federal law. (Only safety-related or law-enforcement jobs would've been excluded.) Arnold

explained his veto this way: "I am concerned with interference in employment decisions as they relate to marijuana use. Employment protection was not a goal of the initiative as passed by voters in 1996."

But California NORML's Dale Gieringer counters: "The intent of 215 was to treat marijuana like other legal pharmaceutical drugs."

Someday, the California governor might want to count his blessings. Had his own pot and steroid use occurred in today's rabid anti-drug climate rather than 30 years ago, his life would be very different indeed—and he certainly wouldn't be occupying the Governor's Mansion.

Like most politicians, he's now become part of the problem.

Pot princess loses crown.



TEEN QUEEN CAUGHT GREEN-HANDED

In Bossier City, LA, reigning Miss Teen Louisiana USA Lindsey Evans and some friends walked out on a \$46 restaurant bill. However, she managed to leave her purse behind, which contained her ID and her stash. The restaurant called the cops and filed a complaint; then Evans returned for the purse. With only 10 days remaining in her reign, she was dethroned.

We forgive you, Lindsey. In fact, we already consider you a finalist for Miss High Times.

this month in SHOWBUZZ

MAKING SENSE

In the early days of the current financial crisis, Bill Maher, host of *Real Time* on HBO, pointed out the obvious: "We are in desperate need of profitable industries that we can tax. Can we legalize pot?"



Mind your Maher.

If we did, experts believe that the cannabis-tax revenue in California alone could approach nearly \$1 billion annually.

HIGH-YO SILVERMAN!

Comedienne Sarah Silverman revealed to *The New York Times* that when she visited the Democratic National Convention last summer, she had her picture taken with Al Gore under the influence of a pot cookie. "Just as it hit me, they're like, 'Sarah, meet Al Gore,'" she recalled. "And then someone took a picture. It's him looking terrified, and me with my hands up, like I'm saying, 'Raaahhhh, I'm a monster.'"



Sarah grows.

RUNNING BACK BLUE!

Ricky Williams, the star running back for the Miami Dolphins, who has tested positive for pot four times and was suspended by the NFL for a year and a half, says he's still tempted to toke. Earlier this season, during the team's off week, Williams acknowledged: "There was definitely an urge, but I just thought about what I have to lose, and it was easy. The urge didn't last very long."



No doob for Dolphin.

If Williams tests positive again, he faces a lifetime ban from the sport. He said that he's taken up meditation to deal with his yearnings, but added: "I would be lying if I said I'm never going to do it again after I'm done."



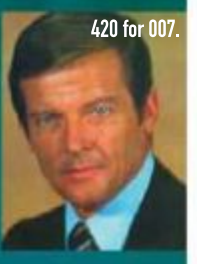
Whoa-pat!

GOOD OL' BOY BUSTED

Tom Wopat, who played Luke Duke, the cheerful redneck of the long-running, low-brow TV series of the '80s, *The Dukes of Hazzard*, got popped at General Mitchell Airport in Milwaukee after airport security found 1.2 grams. (Not much of a toker, huh, Tom?) County sheriffs hit Wopat with a \$500 ticket. He paid it, then flew away.

LICENSE TO CHILL

In his autobiography, *My Word Is My Bond*, Roger Moore reveals that he smoked pot in his younger days. It doesn't seem to have hurt his career: Moore was knighted in 2003, despite being the worst James Bond ever.



420 for 007.

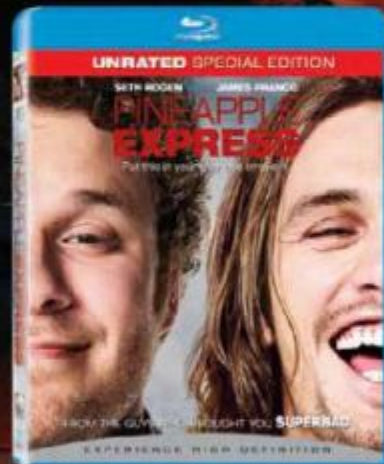
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HIGH FROM HOLLAND

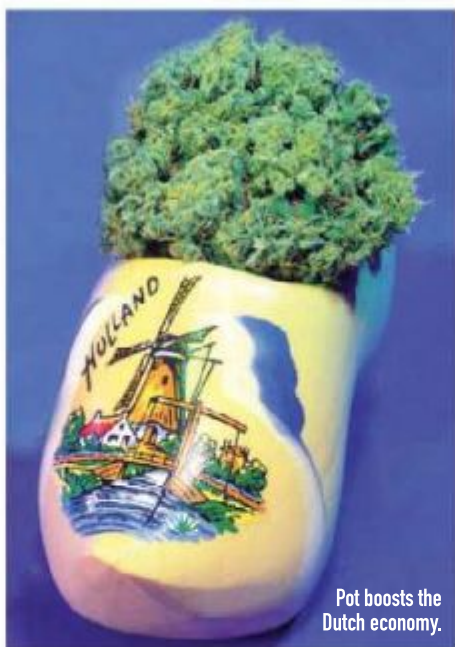
Recently, Dutch police commissioner Max Daniel told the press that the Netherlands exports about \$2.7 billion worth of pot each year, mostly to its European neighbors. Of the 500 metric tons grown each year, he estimates that 80 percent of the total crop is destined for export.

Under Dutch law, possession and production of pot are crimes. But the country is renowned for its tolerance of the sale of marijuana in coffee shops, personal possession of small amounts, and the growing of up to four plants. Larger amounts, including those supplied to coffee shops, are illegal.

Daniel also said, "In the Netherlands, we have 400,000 marijuana users. If that was it, we would have a much more manageable problem."

He was citing the lucrative black market and the violence that often accompanies its operation. But he also added, "In the production of cannabis, the criminal and non-criminal worlds have become increasingly intertwined."

In the Netherlands, the cannabis trade is actually sanctioned by the legitimate economy. Banks finance cultivators, universities research agricultural techniques, and the nation benefits from the tax from coffeehouse sales.



Pot boosts the Dutch economy.

WIN THE DRUG WAR IN 24 EASY STEPS!



In September, a formal declaration was issued at the annual gathering of the World Forum Against Drugs, a talking shop for die-hard prohibitionists. The unrelenting focus of the declaration is on illegal hard drugs, which account for 10 percent of annual drug fatalities, and on cannabis, which accounts for 0 percent. However, the declaration's preamble does tell us that all 11 signing organizations oppose the "inappropriate use" of legal drugs—which, incidentally, cause 90

percent of annual drug deaths. (Quick question: How does one "appropriately" use a cigarette?)

In short, the declaration proclaims that "There can be no other goal than a drug-free world." Then it proceeds to list 24 steps to victory. Here's a quick synopsis of the first 12: Drug-test school kids; drug addiction is bad; let's end drug addiction; all countries should wage war on drugs; the public should get behind the War on Drugs; the UN Office of Drug Control is doing a great job; governments should reduce the demand for drugs; reducing supply is more important than reducing demand; cannabis is a hard drug; cannabis-vending coffeeshops must be shut down; all governments must stop giving medical heroin to heroin addicts; supervised heroin-injection sites must be shut down.

Notice a trend? These aren't steps for a drug-free world; they're orders and opinions. Here's the rest: Marijuana isn't "medicine," it's a hard drug; we oppose all types of progressive drug-policy reform or regulation; all drug treatment should be abstinence-only; people caught with small, personal-use amounts should always be arrested and prosecuted; all drug users and their families should attend abstinence-only treatment; all students should be drug-tested (even though we're repeating ourselves); all employees should be drug-tested; all drivers should be drug-tested; we should spend more money on law enforcement; we want a worldwide anti-drug-campaign group; we want to have more conferences like this one; oh, and we'd also like to mention that drugs are really bad for the poor.

That's some 24-step plan. Now if we could just have one for winning the war on idiocy.—Brendan Hogan
Read the full declaration at wfad08.org.

NOT TONIGHT, HONEY—I'M TRIPPING



LSD offers headache relief.

Cluster headaches (CH) are often misdiagnosed as migraines, but the pain they induce is far more severe, even driving some sufferers to suicide. It's estimated that as many as one in 1,000 people are affected by CH.

Medical experts report two forms of the ailment. Episodic CH strikes sufferers perhaps once a year, but can last up to two months. Chronic CH is something else altogether, a relentless, searing headache that can occur nine times a day, for up to two hours—a neurological disease so painfully debilitating that chronic CH has been dubbed the "suicide headache."

Now, a new study published in the mainstream medical journal *Neurology* reveals that CH sufferers may find relief in an unexpected quarter: by using hallucinogens. Anecdotal evidence from a number of people dealing with CH—so-called "clusterheads" who formed an online group to discuss the miraculous relief they were experiencing with the use of hallucinogens—led Harvard Medical School scientists to conduct the survey. The Harvard team has now applied for a preliminary clinical trial on the subject. Visit clusterheadaches.com.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO GETTMAN

Jon Gettman, Ph.D., a George Mason University senior fellow who's been expertly tracking various hemp and marijuana trends for years, is at it again. Three years ago, Gettman released staggering figures indicating that pot is America's top cash crop.

Now he's taking on Drug Czar John Walters and the Office of National Drug Control Policy, who have been playing fast and loose with the

stats in order to trumpet their alleged success.

Dr. Jon reports that overall illegal drug use among adults actually increased from 2002 to 2007 by 4.7 percent. Also, although teen marijuana use is down a bit, it still remains common: One in nine 14- and 15-year-olds (12 percent), and one in four 16- and 17-year-olds (23.7 percent), used marijuana in 2007.

Gettman says the ONDCP and the Drug Czar have also misused treatment statistics to spread lies about pot's potential for addiction. He cites



Dr. Jon vs. the Drug Czar.

the government's own data, which indicate that arrest-driven treatment programs have wasted tax dollars by admitting thousands who were not truly drug-dependent. He writes: "Increases in drug treatment admissions for marijuana, often cited by officials as evidence that marijuana is dangerously addictive, are driven by criminal justice policies rather than medical diagnosis. These policies increase public costs for providing drug treatment services and reduce funds for and

availability of treatment of more serious drug problems."

In short, there's a whole lot of money to be made in the drug-selling racket—especially in a country like the US, where a pot-related arrest occurs every 36 seconds.

Gettman does credit the ONDCP with a powerful and far-reaching propaganda arm. During Walters's tenure, the ONDCP has released (at a minimum) hundreds of anti-marijuana TV, radio and print ads and press releases, as well as 50 reports (either from the ONDCP itself or other federal agencies) on marijuana or anti-marijuana campaigns.

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THE MOTHERSHIP



THE PRODUCER



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BCNL SUPPORTING VANCOUVER BAND **STAND DOWN**

As BC Northern Lights continues to be recognized as the industry leader in indoor gardens, they're proud to recognize two of their star employees as the leading outfit for the band Stand Down. The Vancouver based band has just released their first full length album and have since been leaving a trail blaze of smoke behind them. While on a mission to dominate the metal scene, guitarist (Justin Lacey) and vocalist (Ken Goode) dispense the same amount of energy and passion into building BCNL's indoor gardens as they do while they're onstage. Given their volcanic rapture since the release of "Villains Parade", BC Northern Lights is excited to be a part of Stand Down's success. Buy the album on iTunes Mutherfucker!

www.myspace.com/standdownmilitia

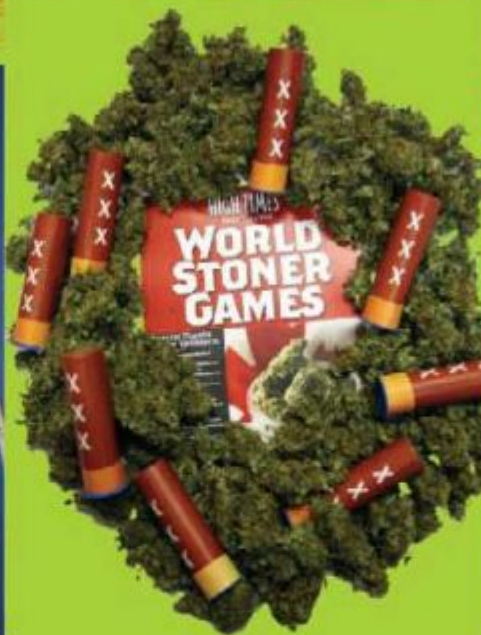
Order toll free at:
1.888.236.1266
bcnorthernlights.com



WORLD STONER GAMES



Joints of all kind were entered. One entry was half-smoked!



Round 4 of bonghitting featured a 4-foot instrument.

WORLD STONER GAMES 2008

Call it the Cottonmouth Bowl—or, better yet, the Stupor Bowl! To be crowned Top Overall Stoner, you have to smoke the competition. Charlie Haze proved that. Story & photos by Dan Skye

It was the bottom of the ninth on the goal line with no time left on the clock. The stoner athletes sat anxiously onstage awaiting the referee's signal to light their joints and begin sucking their brains out until the fat lady sang. The night had been long, but in just a few short hours, the field of 91 stoner athletes—who had traveled from across North America to Toronto in order to vie for the title of Top Overall Stoner—had been whittled down to just these five finely stoned competitors.

The World Stoner Games were formulated following last summer's Olympic Games. (We didn't watch, but they were in China, right?) It just seemed incredibly cool that a bunch of people from all over the world get together every four years to race and swim and wrestle and fall off the balancing beam. But it sure seemed like everyone could have a lot more fun by competing for better prizes in events that didn't get you all sweaty.

Of course, the Olympic policy of banishing athletes for using performance-enhancing drugs was a real buzzkill. Who needs that? In sports, a posi-



Vaporella declares Charlie Haze champ.

tive attitude is key, but at the World Stoner Games, a positive drug test would be essential. You can't demonstrate stoner prowess in the areas of lung-power, artistry, dexterity, athleti-

cism and concentration while straight. That's cheating, and our standards cannot be tainted by non-tokers. The Games would consist of five events—bonghitting, joint-rolling, coloring, the high jump and Stoner Says—designed to allow any stoner to be competitive and have a chance at claiming the title of Top Overall Stoner. The prize? Hotel and airfare to the Cannabis Cup in Amsterdam. Each individual event winner would go home with a sleek glass bong. Local Toronto comedians would keep the edge off competitors. Plus, lots of stoner-gear giveaways would keep the losers from experiencing the agony of defeat too deeply.

At 4:20 p.m., the competitors entered the arena, a nightclub near the Toronto airport. The Ontario Seed Bank of Toronto greeted the combatants and issued the ammunition: a sample of one of its premier strains, Triple X.

The contestants were required to roll aesthetically pleasing joints and show expertise operating bongs of increasing size. They also had to demonstrate stoner artistry by putting crayon to paper, giving expression to their stoner visions. Stoner athleticism would be put to the test in the high jump, in which contestants would try to out-jump one another in order to touch an ounce of LA Cana-dential (LA Confidential grown in Canada) hanging from a rope. In the final event, after surviving round after round of competitive inhalations, the athletes would assemble for a brutal, mind-bending slugfest of Stoner Says—different from the traditional game because the leader says "Stoner says" instead of "Simon says." It's far more challenging, as any veteran stoner athlete can attest.

A tulip triumphed in joint-rolling, but other entries were worthy.



Upon arrival, the athletes went to work designing championship-caliber joints. Some contestants showed game-day nerves, like the dude who smoked through all his Triple X within 20 minutes of the Games' start and had nothing left to roll up for an entry.

Joints could be worked on throughout the evening. So, too, could the stoner art, with a huge bowl of crayons and a stack of drawing paper furnished for the masterpieces to come. The only guideline: The creation had to be marijuana-

The first round of bonghitting eliminated lightweights.



A ref rolls for the smoke-off.

Head referee Vaporella keeps a sharp eye on the five finalists sucking furiously in the smoke-off.



The final bonghitting round required offstage assistance.



related. Needless to say, these were personal, focused events requiring meditation and creativity. The three others would be performed in front of fellow stoner athletes, and the peer pressure would be intense.

In the bonghitting competition, contestants were eliminated over the course of six rounds, each one featuring a bong a foot longer than the previous round, with a bong standing only 12 inches high. But cockiness got the best of one athlete, who trash-talked the others, boasted of his virtuosity and then immediately snarfed the bart, coughing violently back through the chamber and forcing a stream of bongwater up through the bowl itself. Instant disqualification and derisive laughter ensued.

Half the field was eliminated in subsequent rounds, until only two contestants could clear the six-foot tube used in the final round. In the subsequent "bong-off," the winner emerged by demonstrating a remarkable ability to look calm and collected upon clearing the tube. The runner-up wasn't as proficient; he cleared it merely adequately, and his expression looked as if he'd sat on an icicle. In the Games as in life, style often wins out.

The high jump was highlighted by technical difficulties: The rope tied to the ounce got caught on an air-conditioning duct. (Had you been there, you would agree this was high drama. For stoners, time stops when one of their number goes up a ladder to rescue the weed without killing himself.) Once the weed was free, the top contestants showed that *being* high has nothing to do with *getting* high, as the victor launched himself to a height of over 11 feet to touch the ounce. Incentives were doubled in this event; the winners in the men's and women's divisions each received a champion-sized bud of LA Cana-dential for their efforts.

Stoner Says brought out the warriors. Judging was strict and flinching was prohibited. Those who did cursed them-

selves. Others kicked themselves. Still others had to be prevented from committing suicide, such as the tension level. But a winner finally emerged from the fog of stoner war.

In the joint-rolling competition, a delicate tulip rolled by a Muncie, IN, stoner athlete took the gold. A tattoo artist walked away with the top prize for crayon art by creating a righteous illustrated homage to the inaugural World Stoner Games.

But a showdown loomed. After the points were tallied, five stoner athletes were tied. Luckily, the World Stoner Games competition committee had addressed this eventuality. The five were issued joints of equal size and content. Their task was to smoke hard and fast until the joint burned down to the filter. The fastest smoker would be named champion.

Four men and one woman remained. The adrenaline flowed, but they were too stoned to notice. The head referee quieted the crowd.

"On your mark! Get set! Smoke!"

Stoner Says brought out the warriors. Judging was strict and flinching was prohibited.

Five lighters flicked, five sets of lungs geared up, and smoke billowed forth. The crowd roared, shouting out encouragement to favorites. One contestant tried to claim an early victory, but a referee quickly denied his bid, signaling that the filter was still untouched.

The furious toking continued, but just mere seconds later, Charlie Haze, a stoner athlete from Long Island, NY, charred his filter. The ref was on top of him at once and—yes!—it was true. Haze vaulted out of his seat and, like Rocky Balboa, raised his hands triumphantly, proclaiming: "I love HIGH TIMES!"

But the saga of the World Stoner Games is just beginning. More athletes will come—from small towns, from cities, from stoner communities just like yours. They'll dream of victory, of glory—of getting really fucking high. Only one will be crowned Top Overall Stoner. Could it be you? ✨

Visit worldstonergames.com

Special thanks to Ontario Seed Bank, GetGear.Ca for great glass prizes, Chills Canada for providing rolling papers and bongs of varying lengths for competition, Second Nature Hydroponics for donating a drip/bucket system as a giveaway, Smoke Clear for rolling papers, CALM for invaluable assistance in Toronto and DJ Rated R for creating great vibes. Visit worldstonergames.com.

Competitive coloring.



THMQ

Trans-High Market Quotations (THMQ) reports pot prices by the ounce, strain and location. To submit prices, go to the THMQ link at hightimes.com.

CURRENT US PRICE INDEX: **\$364** (last month: \$394; YTD: \$379)

CURRENT KIND INDEX (\$350+ PER OZ): **\$465** (\$452, \$459)

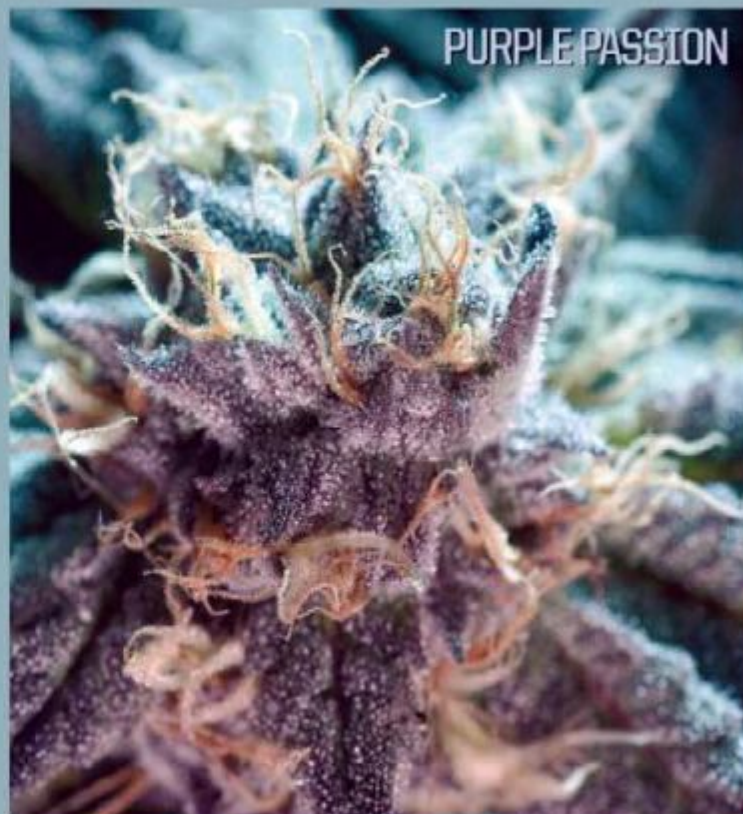
CURRENT MIDS INDEX (\$150-\$349 PER OZ): **\$270** (\$263, \$267)

CURRENT SCHWAG INDEX (\$1-\$149 PER OZ): **\$59** (\$93, \$76)

STATE	CITY	STRAIN	PRICE
CALIFORNIA	Malibu Sacramento	White Widow	\$375
		Holland's Hope	\$250
		Purple Kush	\$300
		Pineapple Kush	\$300
		Mendo Purps	\$300
		Purple Cream	\$300
		Romulan	\$300
COLORADO	Woodland Park	Hashberry	\$280
FLORIDA	Key West Orlando	NL x White Widow	\$350
		Mexi Brick	\$45
ILLINOIS	St. Charles	Kandy Kush	\$400
KANSAS	Lawrence	Purple Kush Bubble Hash	\$500
MARYLAND	Bowie Montgomery County	Skunk #1 x Haze	\$600
		AK-47	\$550
		Gerkel	\$550
		Grape Ape	\$550
		Schwag	\$100
		Purple Kush	\$550
MASSACHUSETTS	Boston	Skunk	\$400
		Diesel	\$400
MINNESOTA	Minneapolis	Sour Diesel	\$450
MONTANA	Miles City	Cat Piss	\$500
NEVADA	Las Vegas	Jack Herer	\$300
NEW MEXICO	Clovis	Schwag	\$50
		Chronic	\$375
NEW YORK	Long Island New York Niagara Falls St. Regis Falls	OG Kush	\$500
		Purple Kush	\$400
		NYC Diesel	\$375
		Granddaddy Purple Urkel	\$450
		Purple Passion	\$600
		NYC Sour Diesel	\$400
		Adirondack Gold	\$200
NORTH CAROLINA	Dallas Statesville	Diesel	\$395
		Afghani	\$275
		Silver Pearl	\$350
OREGON	Portland	Strawberry Cough	\$225
PENNSYLVANIA	Pittsburgh	Kush	\$420
TEXAS	Del Rio San Antonio	Schwag	\$40
		Juicy Fruit	\$430
VIRGINIA	Fairfax	Outdoor	\$325
WASHINGTON	Vancouver	Master Kush	\$320
WISCONSIN	Milwaukee	Granddaddy Purple	\$800

INTERNATIONAL (prices in Canadian or New Zealand dollars)

BRITISH COLUMBIA	Surrey	Bubba Kush	C\$320
		Purple Kush	C\$240
ONTARIO	St. Catharines Toronto	Purple Kush	C\$250
		MK-Ultra	C\$240
		Nebula	C\$400
		Cinderella	C\$425
NEW ZEALAND	Auckland	White Rhino	NZ\$300
		Te Kakariki	NZ\$350

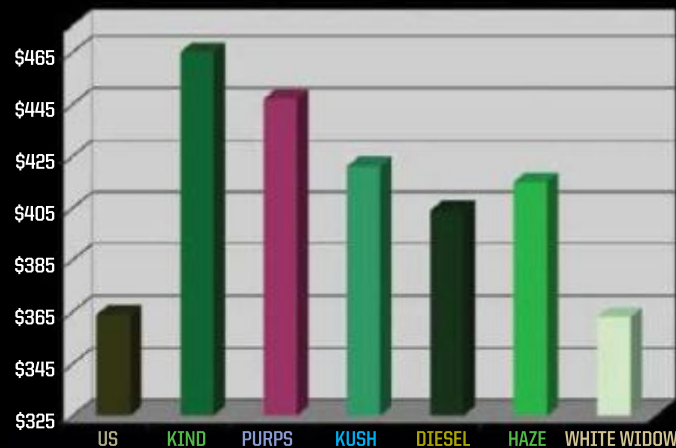


MARKET ANALYSIS

Purps usurped Kush as the top submitted pot of the month. In fact, February marked the first time since May 2008 that Purps took top honors. Also, following a significant increase in January, the US Index dropped 30 points in February, while the Kind and Mids indices rose slightly. The top five submitted strains (with average price) were Purps (\$447), Kush (\$421), Diesel (\$404), Haze (\$415) and White Widow (\$363)

HIGH TIMES wants to know what you're smoking. Submit your strain information, including location and price by the ounce, to thmq@hightimes.com.

FEBRUARY 2009 SELECTED AVERAGE PRICES



Kandy Kush - \$400

St. Charles, ILLINOIS

"Smells like a delicious chronic candy popsicle! Best smoke in about a year."

Skunk - \$400

Boston, MASSACHUSETTS

"Organically and locally grown here in MA. Unfortunately, this is some of the last of the Skunk that will be grown by the grower, but something this good *should* be rare. A clean-burning, smooth-tasting smoke that only gets better every day in its jar. Long buds, and sticky as hell—you'll be able to add some finger hash to your joints from breaking this stuff up."

Purple Passion - \$600

New York, NEW YORK

"What a wonderful, fruity purple strain. Beautiful taste, smell and appearance. Kinda pricey, but the high is well worth it."

Te Kakariki - NZ\$350

Auckland, NEW ZEALAND

"This local strain has won the Auckland Canna Cup four times now. Super-sticky—almost too sticky to roll. Delicious piney-lemon flavor, similar to Rhino or NL x SP. Very hard to get."

MK-Ultra - C\$240

Toronto, CANADA

"Sticky, very dank taste that lingers in your mouth. Awesome high. Knocks you out!"

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Stoner Stoopid

Never judge a band by its moniker—Slightly Stoopid does *not* describe the music, the members or the business savvy of this group. But it could, admittedly, describe a desired state of mind. **By Mary Ought Six**

Slightly Stoopid puffing backstage with reggae legend Half Pint.



'Smoking weed is just something we don't think about anymore. It's just part of us and who we are. The only time I think about it is when we're out of it.'

This laid-back bunch of SoCal surfers has been playing music and smoking herb together since they were in knee pants. First discovered by Bradley Nowell when they were just 17 years old, Slightly Stoopid joined the Sublime legend's Skunk Records and have stayed true to that label's independent spirit throughout their musical career.

Stoopid vocalist/bassist/guitarist Miles Doughty explains: "We went from watching the guys from Sublime with their record label and their independence, and we wanted to do that same thing—control your own destiny, making music for yourselves and for your fans."

Slightly Not Stoned Enough to Eat Breakfast Yet Stoopid, released last summer, is the Ocean Beach band's ninth album, and the second to be released on their self-created, self-promoted and self-titled Stoopid Records label.

These cats have done it all and done it well—and all while stoned, stoned, stoned. Doughty says of the daily routine: "We all wake-and-bake; I was the one who thought of the idea. You start up, you wake-and-bake, and you cruise and see what happens later. It's like a model for everyday life."

Kyle McDonald—along with Doughty, the Stoopid frontman—picked up this theme: "Smoking weed is just something we don't think about any more. It's just part of us and who we are. The only time I think about it is when we're out of it." And when they play out, the marijuana smoke sets the scene. McDonald continues: "I've been at shows where, I swear, as soon as the weed hits the air, the atmosphere changes—everyone's in a great mood."

"I just think like we're a band that you go to the show to have a good time," Doughty asserts. "When we say that we're a party band, it's because we want to have as much fun with every crowd that we're with—smoke weed, drink beer, keep the energy hot"

Whenever they're on the road or out and about on their Southern Cali turf, Slightly Stoopid keep their eyes open for new talent to add to their budding record label. Doughty told *HIGH TIMES* the best way for aspiring bands to submit their music:

"When we're on tour, we're always looking at the bands we're playing with. We're trying to do the same thing for others as we had with Sublime. The important thing [for independent bands] is playing your music out there where people can hear it. Play at a venue, or UPS it to us and give us dates of a show. A lot of the time, if we're buzzing around in the area, we'll come up and check it out."

Slightly Stoopid play 200 dates a year, and that unmistakable forever-on-the-road jamband sound still comes through on their beautifully produced studio album, *Slightly Not Stoned Enough* A decade ago, Stoopid were playing primarily punk, ska and surf rock; these sounds still exist in the music, but now they've taken on structural roles within individual tracks, while Stoopid's natural chemistry and charisma bring the songs to the community level that the band has been nurturing in recent years.

Also, although the new album is peppered with some very good covers—UB40's romantic ballad "I Would Do for You" is the opening track, and there's a fun, jangly rendition of the traditional tune "Know Your Rider"—the best stuff is still their originals. The Mary Jane love song "No Cocaine" is a smooth, bassy tune, truly best paired with a spliff, while the strong jam "Train" gets your shoulders working in that sunny-field way almost immediately.

Okay, so you don't have to be a genius to appreciate an awesome, smoke-shrouded show or a head-bopping album—but you do have to be Slightly Stoopid if you want to make it all come together brilliantly. 🌿

Iron Lionize

INTERVIEW BY DANNY DANKO

The dream: Four stoner guys from Silver Spring, MD, get together during high school to form a reggae-rock band in an effort to avoid having to spend the rest of their lives working mundane day jobs. They tour relentlessly for five years, playing shows in clubs, synagogues, private parties and pretty much anywhere else they can get a gig. Eventually, they catch the eyes and ears of stoner-rock legends Clutch, and suddenly they're playing huge venues and recording their first feature-length album in a legendary Jamaican studio. *HIGH TIMES* caught up with Lionize's singer Nate, drummer Mel, bassist Henry and keyboardist Chris to talk about their whirlwind year and their love of cannabis and classic rock.

You guys are on a pretty nontraditional path for a reggae band—I mean, touring with Clutch instead of hitting up the big roots festivals and world-music events.

NATE: Yeah, we consider ourselves more in the classic-rock spirit than the punk-reggae tradition of the West Coast. Our influences are Steel Pulse and the old Studio One scene, of course, but also Clutch, Black Sabbath and the Police ...

DANNY DANKO

Desert Music

BY JOHN PAYNE

Golden Animals, a duo, have got this amazing little thing out called *Free Your Mind and Win a Pony*, which is everything you ever loved about the hairy-revolutionary classic rock of the 1960s as it warped its wobbly way back to the mystic moods of ye olde prewar blues 'n' rag choons like some kind of intensely curious strand of heat-seeking rock'n'roll DNA. This stuff takes you way, way back, but still manages to sound strangely prophetic

Seems that back in the day, two young people—American Tommy and Swedish Linda—met sweet on the streets of Brooklyn. Tommy played guitar, and Linda thumped some tubs; soon after meeting, they decided to hit the road, in search of they knew not what.

Somewhat strangely, they eventually found themselves living and creating much of their album amid the sizzling, putrid chaos of California's eerie Salton Sea. Now, the Salton Sea does have a rather weird beauty that starts to kick in at around 115 degrees, but it's not like Tommy and Linda had *chosen* to be there. Nevertheless, there they were.

It's fun to imagine how Golden Animals' surreal and stinky new environment (lotsa dead fish out there) may have affected their

MEL: Zeppelin, Stevie Wonder ...
 HENRY: I love Morphine. [pause] The band, not the drug.
 NATE: It's incredible that these bands we love—like Clutch and Steel Pulse—are now our friends. I mean, they're such great musicians and also really cool people. Not everyone in this industry is so genuine.

You also went down to Jamaica to record the new album with Sidney Mills from Steel Pulse producing.
 HENRY: Yes, and Sidney really pulled

one over on us. He downplayed the whole thing, like: "Whatever ... we're just gonna get a studio and play some tunes. No big deal." Then we fly down there to this beautiful place and we get to the studio, and it's the famous Harry J's. We walk in, and there are gold records of *Rastaman Vibration* and *Catch a Fire* on the walls!

NATE: I mean, legendary to the point where like 40 of my favorite 50 albums were created in that spot. I'm actually singing in the vocal booth where "Many Rivers to Cross" was

recorded. Totally mind-blowing!
 HENRY: Tim from Clutch came down, too—he was like our secret weapon. To see the older Rastas grooving out to his heavy-rock thing was quite impressive.

And no lack of herb there, either?
 HENRY: Absolutely not. As soon as we got there, we picked ourselves up a half-pound for like 250 bucks—for 12 days. It got to the point where we were *eating* the weed, just chewing up big buds.

NATE: We took a lot of naps.

Where have you found the best weed?

NATE: Kingston, Jamaica, is by far the best herb we've ever had. There's some great stuff stateside, but Jamaica really stood out for us. If you're talking about touring the US, New York City is truthfully the best selection of high-grade—and you can get it delivered to your door! This,

for us, is priceless. Other notable places are Burlington, VT, and the greater Carolinas.

Do fans take care of you guys on the road?

NATE: They tend to be extremely generous with us, but there could always be more. We puff pretty tough when it's around.

How do you guys create your songs?
 HENRY: It's 100 percent collaboration—Nate or I will write the songs, Chris fleshes out the harmony stuff, and Mel brings the thunder. We throw out four songs for every one we keep and record.

You guys also tour pretty relentlessly.
 NATE: Yeah, we book our own shows and hit the road. These days, it's the best way to get your music out there and build a fan base. I've missed holidays, birthdays, funerals, you name it—but this is what we want to do. Nothing beats traveling around, playing music and sharing herb with people all over the world. I hope we can do it forever. We'll be touring throughout 2009, so come out to a show! ✨

Learn more about Lionize at lionize-music.com and myspace.com/lionize.

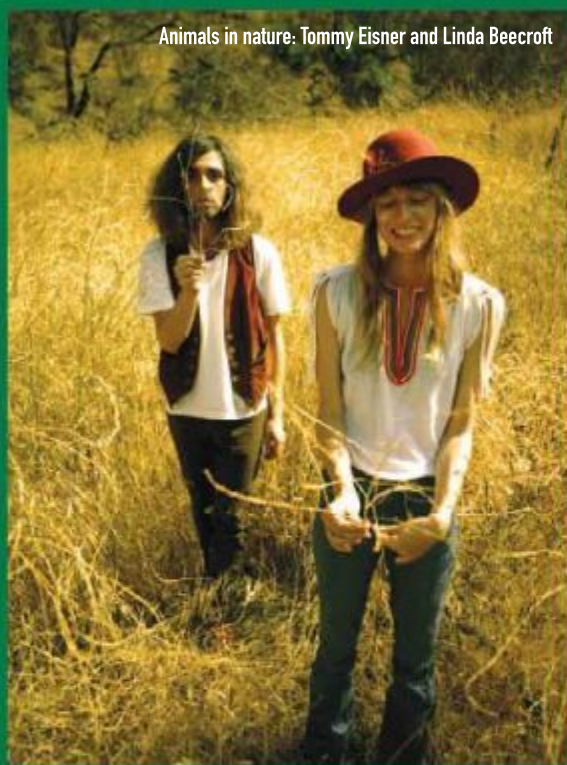
'As soon as we got to Jamaica, we picked ourselves up a half-pound for like 250 bucks ... for 12 days. It got to the point where we were eating the weed, just chewing up big buds.'



High Lions (l to r): Nate Bergman, Henry Upton, Chris Brooks and Mel Randolph

AARON GIESEL, CHRISTINE GOULDEN

Animals in nature: Tommy Eisner and Linda Beecroft



music. Though they apparently didn't spend much time downwind, the heat itself must have been enough to inspire something ...

"We were totally isolated," Tommy recalls. "It was the last house on this road with electricity. We had rehearsals in this converted trailer that someone had built an extension off of. You didn't see anybody, didn't see any cars—the only manmade

thing you saw was a freight train that would pass by. It was just music and us, and total freedom."

The Golden Animals sound emanates from a relatively ancient wellspring of rock'n'roll and roots classics wherein the Doors hump CCR, the Grateful Dead and Lightnin' Hopkins. So you can imagine how their temporary existence outside of time in the Salton Sea was the best place for their music to germinate. On the dusty desert plains of the wild, wild West, the past is ever-present.

"Time is so different there," Tommy says. "It made you think in a different way, because time itself felt different, and the whole environment was different. I feel like we were in collaboration with this spot in making this record. This new sense of time and space totally changed things. We went from being in a box to a place where you couldn't stop looking out—it went on and on until it just turned into haze or something"

While the bulk of the material on *Free Your Mind* was created during Tommy and Linda's stay in Salton Sea, its recording happened over the length of a year at various studios in San Francisco, a process that proved challenging.

"We didn't know anyone in California," Tommy says, "and we ended up having to do it in different stages with different people. We wanted to have a natural sound of how we sounded in a room, and trying to preserve that through different people made things difficult."

Even so, an identifiable sonic stamp emerges on *Free Your Mind*. While the various producers

and engineers (including Devendra Banhart's main man, Tom Monahan) had dissimilar ideas about how best to frame the band's songs, the album feels consistently loose and unfussy, with none of that wussy crystalline digital sound to interfere with its gnarly, rough-hewn mishmash of American roots jazz and classic '60s-rock stomperini.

At least partial credit for the album's authentic hash of warmly woody hippie-revolution rock, high-steppin' ragtime rigmarole and country blues (including heapin' helpings of Big Bill Broonzy, Willie McTell and Robert Johnson) must go to Tommy's collection of vintage chintzy axes.

"They're Harmonys," he says, beaming with pride, "an American student-level cheapo version. A lot of bluesmen played them, 'cause they didn't have a lot of money, and it was like an early electric guitar that you can still find for pretty good prices. They have a big sound—bigger than more refined, expensive guitars. We wanted as much bigness as possible, and that's what you get out of that guitar."

Given their oddly empathetic, mind-melding groove, Tommy and Linda's career in music-making seems highly fortuitous. A series of small miracles has joined them together to meet their public—almost as if it was all meant to be somehow.

"We really feel like we've been on a journey," Linda says.

"And it wasn't even totally our decision," Tommy adds. "Those are the best kind of things—the ones that just happen naturally. They come, and people like it, and you gotta see what it can do." ✨

LA VIDA MOTA



La Vida Mota

Austin's Grupo Fantasma are bringing their high-energy Latin jazz-funk to the world, one city at a time. **By Justin Hampton**

The piquant flare of the horns and the easygoing gallop of the percussion cut through a rough and murky video of Latin jazz-funk combo Grupo Fantasma's performance at Purdue University. Visible on the floor are a swarm of salsa dancers emerging rhythmically out of and back into the darkness—not quite what you'd expect from a bunch of Hoosiers.

Even more subversive is "El Chronico," the song they're dancing to. Toasting the audience in Spanish, percussionist José Galeano, the song's lyricist (and also a nephew of Santana band member José "Chepito" Areas), sings: "Everywhere I go, people tell me to talk about it/About how good the pipe is that's passed around Pardon me if I offend you, but in the end it's my decision/I will buy more herb, and always look for the chronic."

Scanning over their CV, you might not expect it at first from these guys. Since starting out via the informal merger of two Austin, TX-area bands, Grupo Fantasma have pushed way beyond their humble beginnings to seize the attention of a global audience. Appearances at Bonnaroo and on NPR have seeded their name with festival-goers and cosmopolitan types, and a relationship with Prince—yes, *that* Prince—has resulted in the band backing the Purple One himself at his 3121 nightclub in Vegas and at a pre-party for his Super Bowl appearance. They've even entertained the troops in Iraq. So why let the world know?

For his part, founding member and bassist Greg Gonzales explains the song as an honest acknowledgment of a core part of the band's identity. "We're definitely opposed to any kind of oppressive regime trying to crush the freedoms of people doing what they want to do with their own bodies and their own minds," he insists. And as for the pot-smoking narrator: "We know people who do that," he laughs. "And, at times, some of us have been that person."

Of course, any band that plays out 150 times a year isn't exactly spending all its time zoning on the couch to rare-groove sides. And Grupo have been nothing if not productive in '08. In addition to their gigs with Prince, they've also released their fourth CD, *Sonidos Gold* (Aire Sol Records/High Wire Music), and even netted guest spots from Maceo Parker and Fania All-Stars producer/salsa legend Larry Harlow for the release. In addition,

'We're definitely opposed to any kind of oppressive regime trying to crush the freedoms of people doing what they want to do with their own bodies and their own minds.'

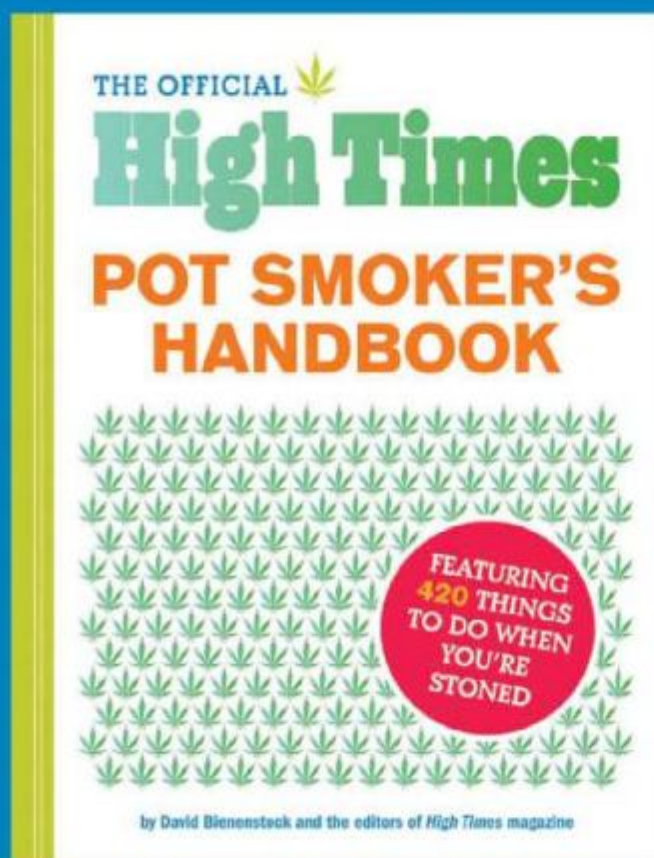
band members have spun off the funk-soul combo Brownout, and guitarist/de facto spokesman Adrian Quesada has also released *The Alchemist Manifesto* (ESL Music), his own down-tempo fusion collaboration with Antibalas's Martin Perna, under the name Ocote Soul Sounds and Adrian Quesada—with Grupo members guesting at points.

Indeed, much like Antibalas, who have already blazed a similar trail with Afrobeat, Grupo employs a loose yet inclusive creative structure that allows the band to collectively enhance the songwriting efforts of individual members. "[Someone will] bring in an almost-completed song idea, and then at rehearsal we'll just start playing it, and then from there we'll get input and feedback," Quesada elaborates. "Everybody kind of tweaks it their own way and gives it their own flavor."

Their recorded output notwithstanding, Grupo's main selling point is their live show. Early on, band members decided to expand beyond a Latin-speaking audience, taking their music to college audiences, the Montreal and North Sea jazz festivals, and even the occasional private function in Austin ("We play our own material," Gonzales adds. "It's not like we come out and play 'Free Bird'"). All those out-of-town jaunts give the band ample opportunity to check out the local strains. Sweet Lou, Grupo's easygoing and chill congolero, will tell you straight up: "There's maybe 13 of us on the road—about 11 of us will smoke [So] if we go out west, gotta pick up some west. And as soon as we go up into Oregon, gotta see what's poppin' with the Oregon. British Columbia, what you got for me? You see?"

At the same time, the band has no problem putting the pipe away—particularly for Prince, a longtime opponent of drug use—and nowadays, several members classify themselves as only occasional tokers. And, in any event, a love of chronic is just one of the many points of enthusiasm that push this band on. Asked where Grupo Fantasma plan to take their music next, Sweet Lou offers: "The stratosphere, you know what I'm saying? Let's do this until people are tired of hearing us play. And then let's complain about *not* playing until they're tired of hearing us complain. It's just what we love, so we gotta go for it." 🌿

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BRIAN WILSON

That Lucky Old Sun
(Capitol)



Fall 2008 saw two releases and tours that are sure to appeal to fans of the Beach Boys, their iconic former leader Brian Wilson and even Charles Manson. For the uninitiated: Manson lived with Beach Boys drummer Dennis Wilson prior to the 1969 Tate-LaBianca murders, and Charlie even had one of his songs ("Cease to Exist") recorded by the Beach Boys (released on their 20/20 LP as "Never Learn Not to Love"). That oft-untold tale is the subject of a re-released 1997 documentary, *The Beach Boys and the Satan* (MVD Entertainment). The good stuff here includes early archival footage, Brian singing "Surf's Up" during the 1966 *Smile* sessions, and an interview with underground filmmaker Kenneth Anger that includes clips of his aborted opus *Lucifer Rising*, which starred murderer, musician and Manson Family associate Bobby Beausoleil.

Ultimately, *The Beach Boys and the Satan* fails to adequately explore Manson's close friendship with Dennis. The Beach Boys drummer drowned



(somewhat suspiciously) in 1983 after promising to reveal the "secret" behind the Manson murders, but this fact isn't even broached. And the filmmakers actually managed to interview Brian Wilson, yet never asked him a single question about Manson.

Much more satisfying is *That Lucky Old Sun*, Brian's brand-new LP on Capitol (yep, he's back with his original label), and its supporting tour. *Sun* combines *Smile*'s optimism with the melancholy of *Pet Sounds* for a fully realized concept album replete with diverse musical styles and the themes of pursuing dreams, redemption and life in Southern California. Chillingly confessional lyrics can be found on the album's outstanding tracks, "Midnight's Another Day" and "Going Home"—but if you prefer the kind of hope that only Brian Wilson can offer, try "Morning Beat" or some "Oxygen to the Brain."

Brian's tour kicked off in Oakland, CA, with his latest outfit, the Lucky Old Band, performing the US debut of *Sun* in its entirety. The following week, Brian returned home for a three-night run at the Hollywood Bowl, accompanied by the Los Angeles Philharmonic and some spectacular fireworks. He performed a generous portion of his classics, including *Smile* epics "Good Vibrations" and "Heroes and Villains," though the signature-shifting masterpieces were hardly appreciated by the shallow SoCal party crowd. Perhaps they'd prefer Mike Love's incarnation of the Beach Boys, which kicked off their fall '08 tour at the Republican National Convention. Charles Manson—once the archenemy of Richard Nixon, now reportedly a Republican himself—would surely appreciate the irony.—Mark Miller

ZACHARIAH

Spent Casings
(Papago Records)



At the Eighth Annual Stony Awards in Malibu, CA, Zachariah and the Lobos Riders stunned the crowd with their inventive merger of country-and-western and rap, a performance that included the soon-to-be stoner classic "I Wanna Be a Lawnmower ('Cause They're Always On Grass)." The song was recently released on *Spent Casings*, a collection of singles, live recordings and soundtrack songs that never made it onto the band's first two studio albums.

Zach Selwyn, leader of the band, is currently seen on G4 TV's *Attack of the Show!*, where he plays a resident stoner dude. (Zach also appeared as a country-rapping gas-station attendant in the film *Dead and Breakfast*, released in 2005.) This band is definitely forging new musical territory, and *Spent Casings* includes some of Zach's most melancholic creations, like the heartbreaking "Saquaro Prayer," though it also showcases his sense of humor in songs like "Grandpa Bob's Genes" and "Chubby Cheeks."

"I wanted a record that was stoner-friendly, drunk-friendly and broken-hearted-friendly," Zach explains. "It's a bit of a departure from the consistency of, say, *Alcohololiday*, but we live in a world where the idea of a full record is over. Guys like Ryan Adams and Lil Wayne release 100 songs a year. If I had the budget, I could do that, too—but until then, I'll keep excavating the stuff we've recorded for the best tunes and hope they resonate with somebody."

Check him out at zachariahmusic.com; you won't be disappointed.—Steve Hager



THE HOLD STEADY

Stay Positive
(Vagrant Records)



Backed by the Hold Steady's sinewy bar-band bluster, front-man Craig Finn comes across like the Boss transplanted from the Jersey Shore to the Mall of America. On the band's first three albums, Finn sang about his hometown of Minneapolis, where heavily pierced hoodrats, small-time hustlers and teenage thrill-seekers engage in casual hard drug use and promiscuity, exemplifying the moment that youthful adventure slides into decadence.

With their fourth album, the Hold Steady take off the training wheels and transition these characters further along their trajectory, landing them in situations fried, frustrated and dissolute, if not yet completely desperate. It's a darker album, making their grip on hope that much more tenuous. Decapitation becomes a metaphor for losing one's head in pursuit of a good time ("Navy Sheets"); a college girl lies to protect a townie flame from a murder rap ("One for the Cutters"); and on the album's most irresistible song, "Sequestered in Memphis," the singer is questioned about a one-night stand with a woman fleeing the law.

The band is tight and rocking—no longer a platform over which Finn spins his long narratives, but more his shadow, a catchy pulse beneath his feet. The piano supplants the guitars at the top of the mix, heightening the Springsteen comparisons, but Finn remains the focus. Whether his characters are stuck in dysfunctional relationships ("Magazines," "Lord, I'm Discouraged") or burned out by the bar scene ("Joke About Jamaica"), Finn and the Hold Steady have taken the party from Saturday night into Sunday morning, with all the attendant regrets and complications.—Chris Parker



HANK III

Damn Right Rebel Proud
(Sidewalk Records)



A dozen years into his tempestuous recording career, there are a few things we've come to know about Hank Williams III: He loves smoking weed and raising hell, and when it comes to feeling "those high times," he turns to his legendary grandfather for inspiration. But on his latest release, *Damn Right Rebel Proud*, Williams reveals a whole new introspective side, digging deep past his raunchy hellbilly persona to uncover 13 stripped-down, soul-baring narratives based on his own turbulent upbringing.

Recorded over two weeks in his home studio, *Damn Right Rebel Proud*'s stark production enhances sad-time ballads like "Stoned and Alone" and the hauntingly biographical "Candidate for Suicide" as much as it punctuates twanging country ditties like "I Wish I Knew" and "Wild & Free." That's not to say that Hank III has lost his edge, as one listen to the first single, "Long and Close Calls," quickly proves: The rollicking psychobilly anthem rages with the force of a runaway Mack truck while managing to incorporate both banjos and metallic shouts at the devil. And, in true rebel form, Hank doesn't mince words while defending his family honor on "The Grand Ole Opry (Ain't So Grand)," about the Nashville institution from which Hank Williams remains famously barred. Add to that the Butthole Surfers-influenced "H8 Line," the grim "Three Shades of Black" and the raucous "P.F.F."—a honky-tonk reworking of GG Allin's "Drink, Fight & Fuck"—and you've got a wildly eclectic album that'll satisfy country and punk fans alike.—Zena Tsarfin





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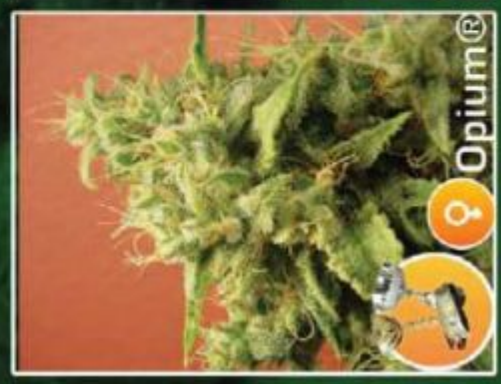


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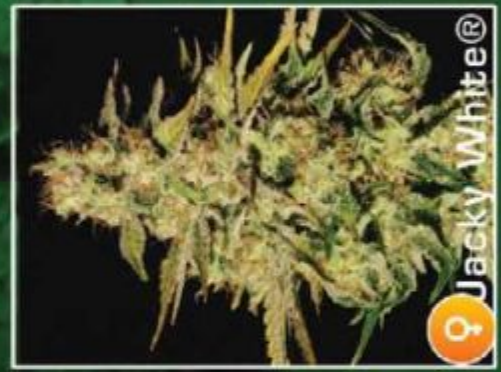
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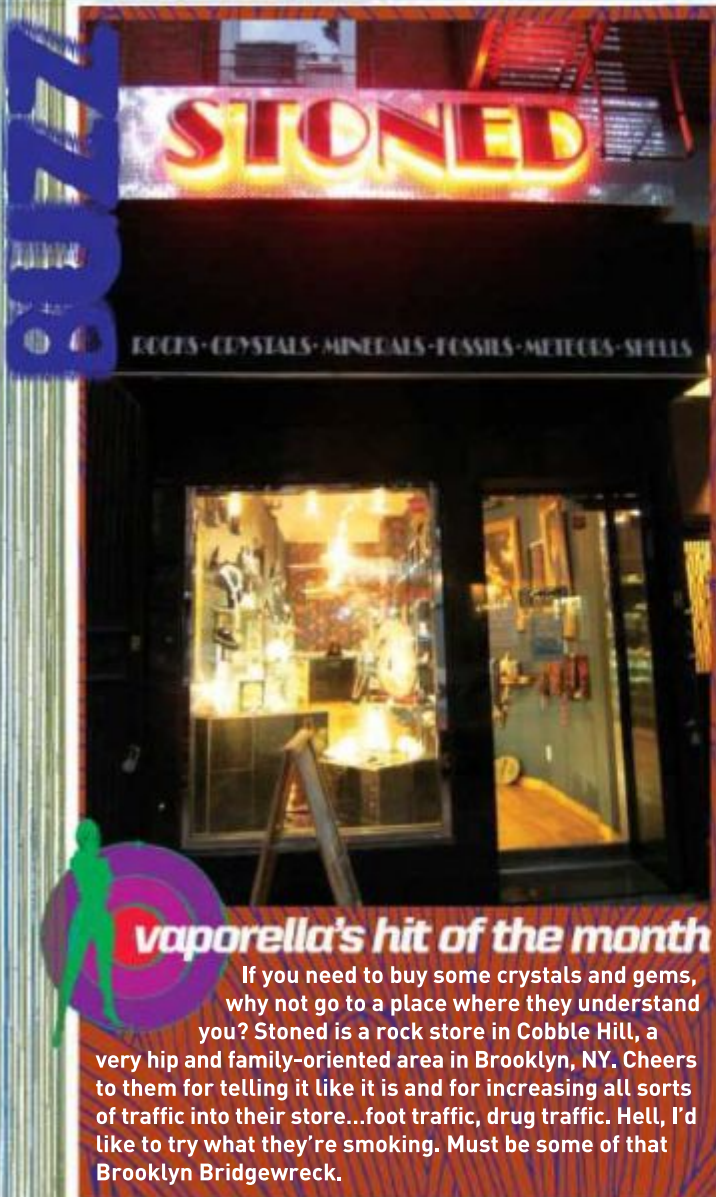
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BY BOBBY BLACK

COPS & REEFERS

HT and BC smoke out a police party at the Playboy Mansion.

When it comes to pimpin' cribs, few places can compare to the shagadelic Shangri-La that is the Playboy Mansion. Like so many other guys, I've fantasized all my life about someday visiting Hef's pleasure palace; little did I imagine that when I'd finally get my chance, it would be for a party hosted—of all people—by the police.

"Let me get this straight," said my outraged activist pal Todd McCormick. "HIGH TIMES is paying for you to come to LA to cover a party at the mansion that's being thrown by cops?!? But wouldn't send you to cover my marijuana party there? WTF?"

"Not exactly," I explained. "See, BC Northern Lights are one of the sponsors of the event, and the owners offered to fly me and Danny Danko out first-class to cover it. Rumor has it they're going to have live pot plants in their grow boxes."

"Wow—live plants?" he replied incredulously. "You are blowing my mind!"

Unfortunately, it turned out to be just that—a rumor. When the BC boys picked Danny and me up at LAX that Friday afternoon, they informed us that after thinking it through, they'd opted to omit the plants.

After a quick bite, we hit the red carpet pre-party at Boulevard 3 on the Sunset Strip, where mixed-martial-arts champ Daniel Puder (the event's organizer) was debuting his new Wet T-shirt Wrestling League (WTWL) for a pay-per-view special. In a ring set up inside the club, pairs of semi-attractive, semi-dressed females battled in a series of overly choreographed clashes that made Wrestlemania look like the Olympics. After the tournament, we smoked up with some of the WTWL girls and hit the road.

The next morning, we helped the BC guys schlep their grow boxes to the mansion, pigged out on some Roscoe's chicken and waffles, then spent the rest of the day hot-boxing our buddy Yakov's RV, swilling Tecates and playing Wii Golf while waiting for the party to begin. When the magic hour arrived, we all chipped in for an ounce of OG Kush and a limousine and headed for the Hills—Beverly, that is.



Above: A Playboy model shows off the Mothership. Left: Bobby gets busted.



The Cops & Robbers Ball was a fundraiser for the Cops Care Cancer Foundation, which was auctioning off a variety of sports and rock memorabilia and—as unbelievable as it may seem—the Mothership, BC's hydroponic grow unit, to raise money for kids with cancer. Puder hosted all of the action,

with the help of numerous nameless nymphs and some C-list celebrities like *Mind of Menacia's* Brad Williams, ultimate fighter Chuck Liddell, porn icon Ron Jeremy and Bunny Ranch owner Dennis Hoff. Sadly, Hef himself was nowhere to be found.

The BC boxes were set up right next to the fabled grotto, and while there may not have been any herb in them, there was certainly plenty in our pockets—about 30 or so joints that we'd rolled up in the limo on our way over. We blazed out all night, and despite being surrounded by about a hundred off-duty cops, no one said boo to us. In fact, the only ones who came over were the Bunnies (dressed in sexy police uniforms) looking to get high.

"If they're the cops, I guess that makes us the robbers," Danny chuckled.

"The only thing I'm gonna steal is her heart," joked BC's Mike as he took off in pursuit of one particularly curvaceous cop. By the end of the night, we were barely able to wobble back to the limo. Luckily, Danny and I were able to sleep off our hangovers in our fully reclining first-class seats on the flight home next morning.

"How was it?" Todd asked when I got back. "Did you like the mansion? Of course you did—shit, what's not to like?" He told me that the next MPP party at the mansion was coming up in June, and "you're on my guest list for sure. I really hope HIGH TIMES will send you."

So do I, Todd ... so do I. 🌿

Author's note: This is my 50th column! I want to thank all my loyal readers for their amazing support these past few years. Here's to the next 50!

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MED-POT AND ITS SIDE EFFECTS

BY PAUL KRASSNER

Dying to Get High: Marijuana as Medicine, by Wendy Chapkis and Richard Webb, is an important and accessible book—not heavy on academic jargon, but rather lively and engaging, like a true-detective novel—with a broad appeal to those interested in the medical potential of cannabis, grassroots activism and putting an end to the Drug War. I asked the co-authors how working on the book changed them.

WENDY CHAPKIS: “I certainly was one of those people who thought that ‘medical marijuana’ was probably mostly a way for Americans to get around ridiculously punitive drug laws. It seemed like a reasonable strategy to me. But the very first time I walked into a WAMM [WoMen’s Alliance for Medical Marijuana] membership meeting, looked around the room, and saw people who were ghostly white and frail, people in wheelchairs, people huddled in small groups talking about a WAMM member who needed round-the-clock care, I realized that medical marijuana was no ‘ruse.’ These were very ill people. And as I started doing interviews, the stories of the medicinal properties of pot blew me away.

“I wasn’t the only one surprised to discover that marijuana did, in fact, have therapeutic effects—many patients were equally astonished. Like me, they’d been recreational users who appreciated the pleasurable effects of marijuana and were suspicious of the claim that the herb was medicine. Then they started chemotherapy, for example, found themselves fighting off nonstop nausea, took a hit and the nausea disappeared. Or they had intolerable nerve pain from multiple sclerosis, AIDS or post-polio syndrome, used some cannabis tincture and the pain quieted down. It was funny how surprised we all were that it really worked.

“I think this shows how effective Drug War propaganda really is: Even (or maybe especially) people who are very familiar with marijuana are prepared to believe that it doesn’t really work as a medicine. Of course, since the discovery of the cannabinoid-receptor system in the body and the production of endogenous cannabinoids, scientists haven’t been at all surprised at the medical properties of the plant—which I guess helps explain why the Feds have been so reluctant to allow any scientific research.

“In any case, this research really transformed my understanding of the effects of cannabis—including enriching my understanding of the therapeutic effects of the so-called ‘high.’ The chapter on the high is one of my favorites, because I think even the medical-marijuana movement tends to downplay the psychoactive properties of the drug. They talk a lot



about relief of ocular pressure, anti-nausea properties, and the effect of cannabis on AIDS wasting and relief of neuropathic pain, but there is very little discussion of the ways in which the psychoactive effects contribute to a sense of wellness for those who are seriously ill. And that is no small thing.”

RICHARD WEBB: “Working with WAMM has indeed been a transformative experience. I’ve learned a great deal and formed some of the most cherished and important relationships of my lifetime—but perhaps the most profound change for me has been the development of a new awareness of the importance of compassion and forgiveness. Two events epitomize the many experiences that led to this change.

“The Gay Pride Festival in San Francisco has been one of WAMM’s most successful annual fundraising events. One year, I was working T-shirt sales, and when I turned my back for a moment, someone in the crowd stole a pile of shirts. Angry at the perpetrators and embarrassed about my carelessness, I told Valerie Corral, WAMM’s executive director, about it—and all she said was, ‘Well, let’s hope they get a good price for them, because they must need the money very badly.’ Val’s forgiveness was like an epiphany, a moment I will never forget. It was as if a lifetime of blame and resentment had been lifted from my heart, and I became suddenly aware of the deep suffering that drives some people to behave badly.

“When I began my research on WAMM, one of the first people I got close to was an HIV patient named John Taylor. As a result of his illness, John was desperately poor and physically debilitated, but he retained a sense of humor and *joie de vivre* that made him a pleasure to be around. We eventually became best friends, and when at last John’s struggle against the disease became futile, I turned my living room into a hospice facility and, with the assistance of many WAMM members—most of whom were trying to manage their own devastating ailments—I was able to provide John with a safe and comfortable place to live out his final 10 weeks.

“These experiences, and many others of a similar nature, have almost completely altered my view of the world, my sense of who I am, and my beliefs about what is most important in life.”

As this is being written, the presidential election is still a month away. Barack Obama has promised to curb the federal enforcement of drug laws against state medical-marijuana suppliers. John McCain, on the other hand, has actually *ridiculed* patients who have pleaded for more compassionate policies. ✨

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High in the hills

The outdoor gardens of Northern California grow bigger every year. That's why the season of harvest creates an atmosphere of high spirits—and even higher tension.

Story & photos by Dan Skye

A Mendocino County garden of bursting buds soaks up the day's last rays.



On the satellite radio, Washington is trying to figure out how to stop the free fall. The stock market is doing a belly flop and, in Congress, the finance guys are causing panic with utterances like “recession,” “depression” and “trillion-dollar losses.” On this September morning, America is struggling with a sense of unreality.

Well, maybe not here. The first rays of light are just showing, and the tall pines have begun to materialize in silhouette against the morning sky. A small fire warms a trio of pot farmers who have just crawled out of their tents. They stand sleepy-eyed, staring into the flames in the morning chill, sipping strong camp coffee and chatting in low tones. The scene is being duplicated throughout cannabis country in Northern California, and it’s a safe bet that nobody here is listening too closely to the radio and the ominous warnings about Wall Street: Their own stock is performing magnificently, and their growing portfolios are being managed with considerable expertise.

Despite the specter of raids and arrests, California outdoor growers once again generated a record harvest this past fall. Motivated by the inability of law enforcement to make even a tiny dent in statewide pot production, growers pulled out all the stops—more gardens and more plants per garden. As one female Humboldt County grower stated: “I’m through with these guidelines. I’m not worrying about being arrested anymore. I’m just going for it.”



The government created the marijuana black market and law enforcement keeps it booming.



Med-pot plant limits vary in California counties, but some growers can produce a great deal of pot from a single plant.



Gold Rush, a popular Humboldt County strain.

“Going for it” means two greenhouses, two outdoor gardens and a slew of potted plants sunning themselves on the deck attached to the southern side of her house. In NoCal’s largest pot-production region—the Emerald Triangle, consisting of Humboldt, Mendocino and Trinity counties, plus Lake, Shasta, Sonoma and others—it is clear that her no-holds-barred sentiment is widely held.

Of course, that doesn’t mean there is no risk. The Campaign Against Marijuana Growing (CAMP) has been doing its thing since 1983, how-

ever ineffectively. An arm of the state attorney general’s office, CAMP is funded primarily by the DEA. Five CAMP eradication teams work statewide, often dropping in on remote gardens from helicopters to hack down the plants and bundle them for transport to a burn site. Sometimes they arrest people, albeit fewer than they’d like. Fortunately, the noise of an incoming chopper allows on-site growers plenty of time to flee.

In this industry-depleted region, where the residents depend heavily—if not exclusively—on growing marijuana for a living, CAMP is the enemy. Local radio stations report where flyovers are taking place. CAMP cops can’t get service in restaurants, and even if they could, they’d be wise to pass on whatever is served. They might also want to pass up the local motels, where maids have allegedly rubbed the bed sheets of CAMP guests with poison ivy.

This past summer, CAMP and other anti-pot law-enforcement agencies only managed to aggravate the situation further. As forest fires raged throughout the region, the authorities launched Operation Southern Sweep—an overblown, ridiculously expensive series of raids, carried out by 450 agents and support personnel, that netted a paltry 10,000 plants. No one thinks kindly of heavily armed cops hacking down pot gardens while nearby homes go up in flames.

Law enforcement officials have also infuriated the populace with inflammatory statements that tacitly equate marijuana cultivation with terrorism and violent crime: “It’s like watching a green plague spread over the county,” or “It’s like trying to control Baghdad,” or “Have we lost the war on drunk driving, rapes and homicides? We can’t throw in the flag!”

The Feds are also rattling their sabers about the alleged invasion of Mexican pot cartels, and the mainstream media has bought the fairy tale (see sidebar). Apparently, the Mexicans have invaded and are doing the bulk of the state’s growing in the Northern California forests. It’s a lie rife with racist overtones, disseminated despite an appalling lack of evidence—a myth propagated by the Feds to account for their spectacular failure and repeated incessantly by them as they seek more funding to fight the elusive dragon.

In the meantime, a fundamental truth is ignored: The government created the marijuana black market, and law enforcement keeps it booming. But now, with the nation suffering through a calamitous financial crisis and tax revenues on the wane, it’s getting harder for California lawmakers to ignore the huge elephant in the room: Why not tax cannabis?

Currently, the state receives about \$12 million annually from medical-marijuana taxation. But Californians consume between \$870 million and \$2 billion worth of medical marijuana per year. Experts believe the state could reap anywhere from \$70 million to \$120 million in sales-tax revenues alone if medical marijuana was taxed like other herbal medicines. Also, a policy that treats and taxes marijuana like tobacco and alcohol would result in a decrease in the illegal activities surrounding cannabis, drug-law reform advocates argue, as well as in the creation of government guidelines for marijuana quality, better control of underage access, and the removal of the profit motive that attracts growers.

“Not so fast,” responds Andy, a Trinity County grower. “The profit motive is why I’m here!”

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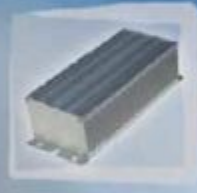
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When you hit the local highways, again and again you see towering plants exceeding the height of the fences meant to hide them.

on the frontier, which means sleeping in a tent every night for now. There are no bathroom facilities—you dig a hole—but you can grab a shower in town, only 18 miles away. At night, he and his wife sit by the campfire talking avidly about their future in the NoCal wild. That future looks bright—provided they can make it to harvest.

Andy's garden is a sprawling expanse comprising 70-plus specimens of Mendo Purps and Blueberry, partially covered by tarpaulins to prevent the sun from scorching the near-ripe buds. As in many other undeveloped parcels, a tent is pitched right next to the plants: Andy's partner sleeps alongside their veritable gold mine every night. Deep in the backcountry, you're responsible for managing your own security. As growers gear up for the work of harvest, traffic on the dusty back roads gets heavier. Out-of-state license plates are immediately suspect, and a casual communications network keeps tabs on the movement of interlopers who may have pot poaching on their mind. Everyone pretty much knows everyone else around here, and no one wants to see their neighbors busted, much less ripped off.

Nighttime during harvest season can get noisy, too. Every garden's got a big dog with a big bark, and the humans have guns. Boredom, firearms and, often, a few drinks spawn the occasional clamor in the darkness.

Growers in Trinity County who have already established deep roots in the region are even bolder with their plant counts. Often, the sophistication of their grow ops leaves one in awe—like the monster plants growing in one such garden, individually boxed in either four-by-four or six-by-six-foot boarded planters, and whose water source features separate, easily adjustable spig-

ots. Or another, laid out on half-moon terraces, with 11 pungent strains nearing completion. Both are completely open to the southern sky and easily identifiable by air—and yet they flourish, unimpeded by raids. Even stranger, when you hit the local highways, again and again you see towering plants exceeding the height of the fences meant to hide them.

Of course, you'll also see haphazard grow ops with soda cans and other debris littering the scene, as well as growers whose personal grow style is far more damaging. Law enforcement and ordinary civilians—both pro- and anti-pot—are concerned about the piggish behavior of some of the growers on public land and in US forests, who are careless in their use of fertilizers and pesticides that damage waterways, and leave their grow areas strewn with garbage and waste. Needless to say, the drug warriors have eagerly pounced on these misdeeds and held them up as evidence of the "green plague" that afflicts us all—despite the government's own abominable record of abuse of public lands.

This Trinity County garden features planters with individual water sources for each plant.



This monster bud of Blueberry was a prize the female grower awarded to herself.



Purple Jasmine, a secret Mendo strain with buds as big as a forearm.

close to \$15 billion—approximately \$1.5 billion in Mendocino County alone—and a pound bringing in anywhere from \$2,500 to \$5,000, the population of growers in the state's northern counties has been steadily on the rise. Andy is one of them. He'd just begun growing indoors in Santa Cruz; he'd purchased a spacious hillside home, but in a matter of weeks, the house plummeted in value. His mortgage was a "lease/option to buy" type which allowed him to walk away. Now he and his family are carving out a new life for themselves in ultra-rural Trinity County—in this case, literally: Andy brought in an earth-mover to create terraces for his gardens. He also smoothed out a hilltop on a second parcel of land to build a new home, which he is racing to finish before winter arrives. There's something almost pioneer-like about his situation. His wife is eight months pregnant, and the nearest hospital is about 90 minutes away. They already have a two-year-old who is thrilled with his new life

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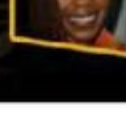
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VARIETY





California's harvest increases annually.

And what would drive someone to grow deep in the forest anyway? Maybe property forfeiture, loss of one's children and incarceration, for starters.

In Mendocino County, law enforcement likes to wring its hands over the out-of-control "epidemic" of grow ops. For years, Mendo had the most liberal cultivation limits in the country. But in June, a measure was passed paring the limit of plants that medical-marijuana patients could grow from 25 down to six. Then, in August, a county Superior Court judge ruled that the new measure was unenforceable because the state's electorate hadn't consented to it. So when autumn arrived, the buds were blooming, as always, everywhere in Mendocino County.

Particularly noteworthy was the team of growers handling nine different gardens on a hilltop overlooking a quiet valley in northeastern Mendo. It's not unusual for more ambitious grow ops to be worked by partners. A backyard garden is relatively safe, but multiple gardens sown in rugged terrain necessitate extra vigilance in the last weeks before harvest.

All of the gardens were properly licensed, situated separately to reduce flyover interest. Garden maintenance here requires packing quads with equipment and motoring through a network of mountain roads. It's common for growers to travel packing a rifle: There are mountain lions in the neighborhood—as well as unsavory types looking to abscond with a summer's worth of someone else's toil.

The magnificent gardens that dot the hillsides across this tract of land have been meticulously sited. Once you park the four-wheeler, it takes a little bit of hiking to get to each. The fencing is unobtrusive, but sturdy and resistant to varmints. In the garden, each bush is exploding with bud growth: Goo, Super Silver Haze, Trainwreck, Cabernet, Stinky Pinky, Permafrost, Gold Rush—every strain a winner. The grower stops and says hello to each one.

The breeze is scented with sweet smells. Anticipation is also in the air—the same emotion that makes kids giddy on Christmas Eve. Something good is coming. ✨

THE 'MEXICAN POT CARTEL' MYTH



The past year has done little to quell Drug Czar John Walters's rhetoric regarding the alleged involvement of so-called "Mexican cartels" in US pot production. Speaking to reporters in September, Walters claimed that up to 80 percent of all outdoor marijuana is now cultivated on public land, primarily in national parks. The Drug Czar's claim is both dubious (federal estimates regarding domestic pot production are based on little, if any, actual data) and ironic, since the federal penalties for cultivation are typically stricter than state penalties. This indicates either that a) the Drug Czar is lying, b) punitive federal anti-drug

laws don't deter illicit activity, or c) both.

Walters further alleged that the bulk of pot grown on public land is being cultivated by "Mexican drug cartels," a charge that longtime California NORML coordinator Dale Gieringer disputes.

"There's no question that a lot of Mexicans are arrested for marijuana growing here," Gieringer says. "A lot of native growers hire Mexicans—common practice in Mendocino and other California counties, where Mexicans are typically hired for farm work. Whether these individuals belong to cartels is another matter. By definition, a 'cartel' is a combination of producers who control a single market. By contrast, the marijuana market is highly competitive, and there's no evidence of control by any Mexican cartel."

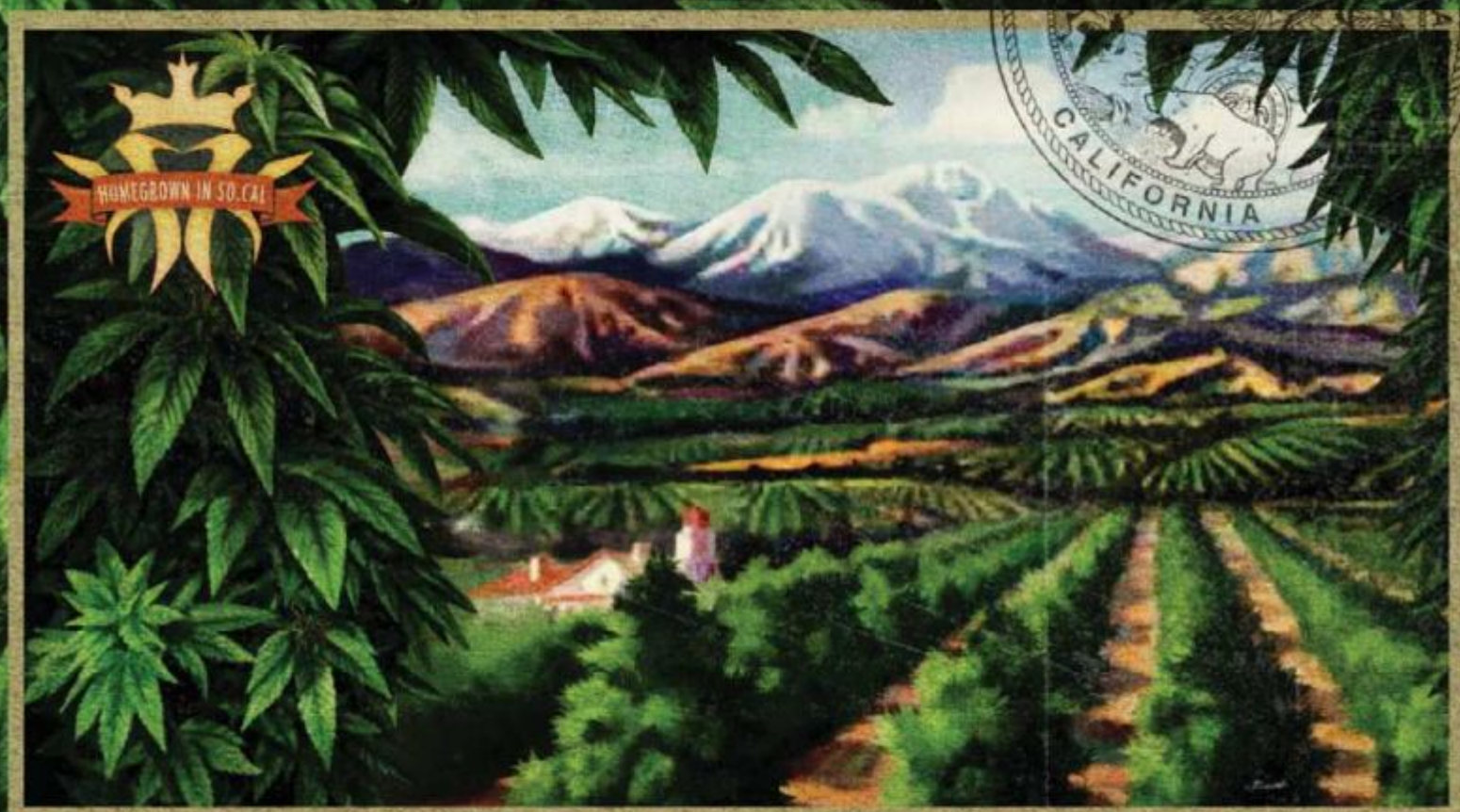
According to Gieringer, the claims by law enforcement officials regarding supposed cartel involvement date back several years, but increased "astronomically" following the terrorist attacks of September 11. "My own hypothesis is that the post-9/11 border crackdown has induced more Mexicans to come stateside and do their growing here so as to avoid crossing the border," Gieringer says, though he cautions that it's also not unheard-of for American growers to litter their plots with tortillas and other Mexican cultural artifacts in an effort to mislead law enforcement.

Even if there was a grain of truth in Walters's egregious claims, his charges only lend support to the calls by drug-law reformers for taxation and regulation in the commercial cultivation of weed, a move that would all but eliminate the involvement of organized crime in cannabis production, and put to rest the White House's bizarre notion that there are pot-pushing narco-terrorists lurking under our beds—or at least in our national parks.

—Paul Armentano

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Proud to Be an American

A Day in the Life of a Hydro Show. Story & Photos by Tyde Turner

Well, my patriotic amigos, the time has finally come for HIGH TIMES to venture west and see what all this hub-bud is about. Apparently, there *is* a North American Gardening Expo, and guess what? It's actually in America—not Canada or Mexico, but in good ol' San Francisco.

You see, many of the great industry events are usually held in places like Spain, Holland or Toronto due to the immense relevance of cannabis at these shows and the related prohibition that goes along with said relevance in places like the United States. But the Indoor Gardening Expo this past summer in San Fran certainly held its own among its global competitors.

A modern-day gold rush for serious growers all across our great country, the expo made it a proud weekend to be an American, as cool heads from every corner of the world came together to explore and share with one another, not to mention give loads of free shit away. So here's a little bit about what exactly went on out there in Northern Cali—the latest in gear, grow products, nutrients and anything else you can imagine.

Down on the Pier

The expo, held in San Francisco every year around July, is a huge convention of horticultural enthusiasts. If you grow tomatoes and you want to grow bigger tomatoes, this is the place for you. There's biology, botany and downright silly science going on down on the pier—and yes, even some ganja smoking. After all, this *is* California, and most people there had their medical cards in hand and would periodically step aside to medicate. The pier's perfect view of Alcatraz was a minor, ironic glimpse of just how far we've come.

The setup in the convention center was amazing: a huge, warehouse-sized building lined up and down with booths from vendors, manufacturers and distributors, all showing off their best and latest wares—gadgets and gurus, purveyors of the latest technology and goodies to get your garden supercharged. This was clearly the place to be if you're serious about good growing. So, without further ado, let's peruse the floor ...



Light Tech

The expo saw a plethora of innovative lighting technologies, everything from LED lamps to spinner systems. LED lamps have taken the marketplace by storm of late thanks to their considerable energy savings, as well as extremely low heat emissions. While most LEDs utilize only the far ends of the visible spectrum, they do offer significant power for the amount of juice they consume.

The LEDs on display by LumiGrow boasted 50-diode lamps that, at five watts per bulb, use only about 250 watts per lamp. The lamps have a nice added feature in their individually adjustable red and blue balance knobs, allowing precise two-channel spectrum control for specific plant types. The LumiGrow team had large, plump tomatoes growing under their lamps at the show, but we've already seen LEDs in action in ganja gardens, and the results are starting to get very interesting.

Still, of all the great products on display at the expo, perhaps the most innovative were the Sun Pulse lighting systems by Life Light Technologies. An absolutely intriguing concept in lighting design, the Sun Pulse setup at the convention attracted the most attention from passersby, as the company's demonstration team gave regular presentations of its Sun Spinner and Trio lighting systems.

Utilizing a combination of bulbs with varying Kelvin ratings, these patented systems provide optimum light frequencies for gardens of all kinds. The four- and six-arm spinner systems serve two purposes: First, they provide total canopy coverage, and second, they keep the bulbs cool and prevent heat build-up. As an added bonus, the spinner system requires no special cooling—only regular room ventilation.

The full-range spectrum offered by Sun Pulse lamps is thus far unparalleled in the industry. Look for a more in-depth feature on these systems and the latest in lighting technology in an upcoming issue of HIGH TIMES sometime this summer!

For more info, check out SunPulseLamps.com and LumiGrow.com



A "small" model of Forever Flowering's light-deprivation greenhouse...in the warehouse.

Greenhouses

Hands down, the award for largest product at the show went to the innovative team from Forever Flowering Greenhouses, who somehow managed to construct an entire greenhouse inside the expo. It took them almost 24 hours to assemble, and it wasn't even the largest item in their product inventory!

Forever Flowering Greenhouses combine light-deprivation grow techniques with state-of-the-art technology to create an automated greenhouse that lets sunlight in when you want it and blocks it when you don't. "Light-dep" allows growers to flower their ganja plants during parts of the year they normally couldn't due to the sun's natural schedule. Essentially, greenhouse growers can get an extra harvest or two each year now that they can control outdoor light cycles.

With automated shades that are mechanically drawn, these

greenhouses allow growers to set the light cycle to any length they choose. For farmers farther north or south who find they run out of light, the greenhouses can be equipped with standard high-intensity discharge (HID) lighting as well, to prolong the light cycle rather than shorten it. It's a truly ingenious product for outdoor cultivators looking to add a few extra crops to their yearly yields!

For more info, check out ForeverFlowering.net

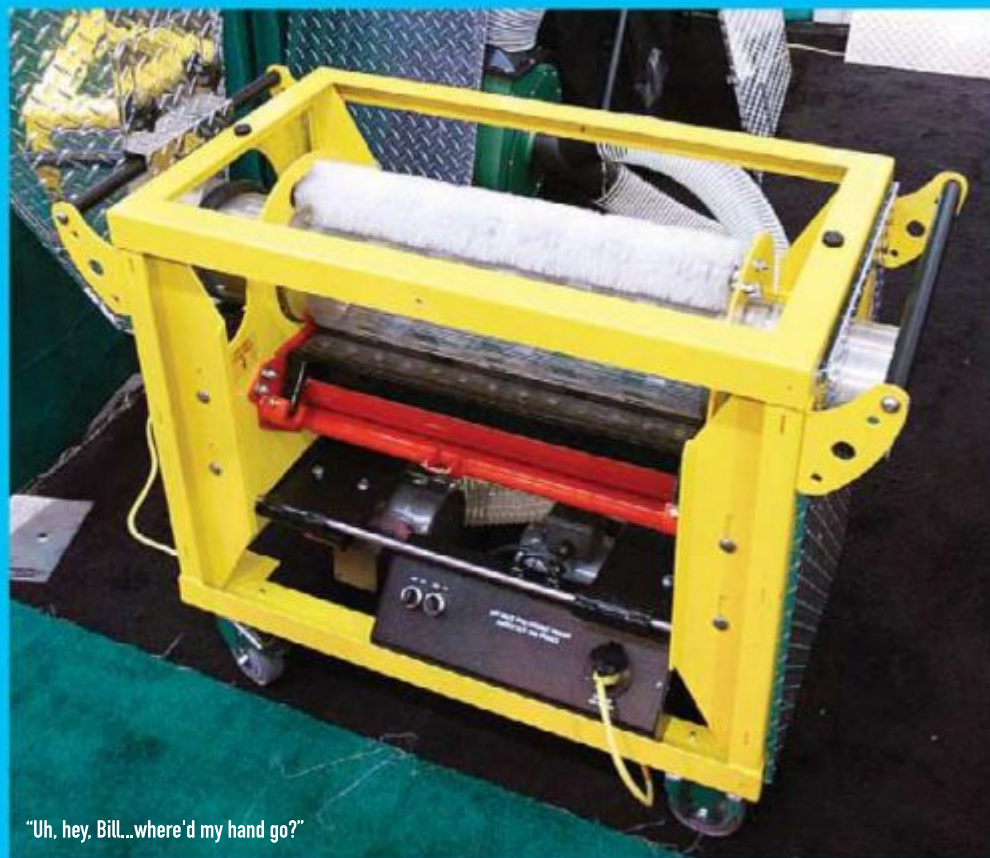
Super Trimmer

We've seen a lot of trimmers over the years—some big, some small, some that suck, some that blow—but the Tumbleweed from GLD Manufacturing quite frankly shocked the shit out of us. For a machine that looks better suited to getting rid of mobsters' dead bodies, this sucker packs a punch.

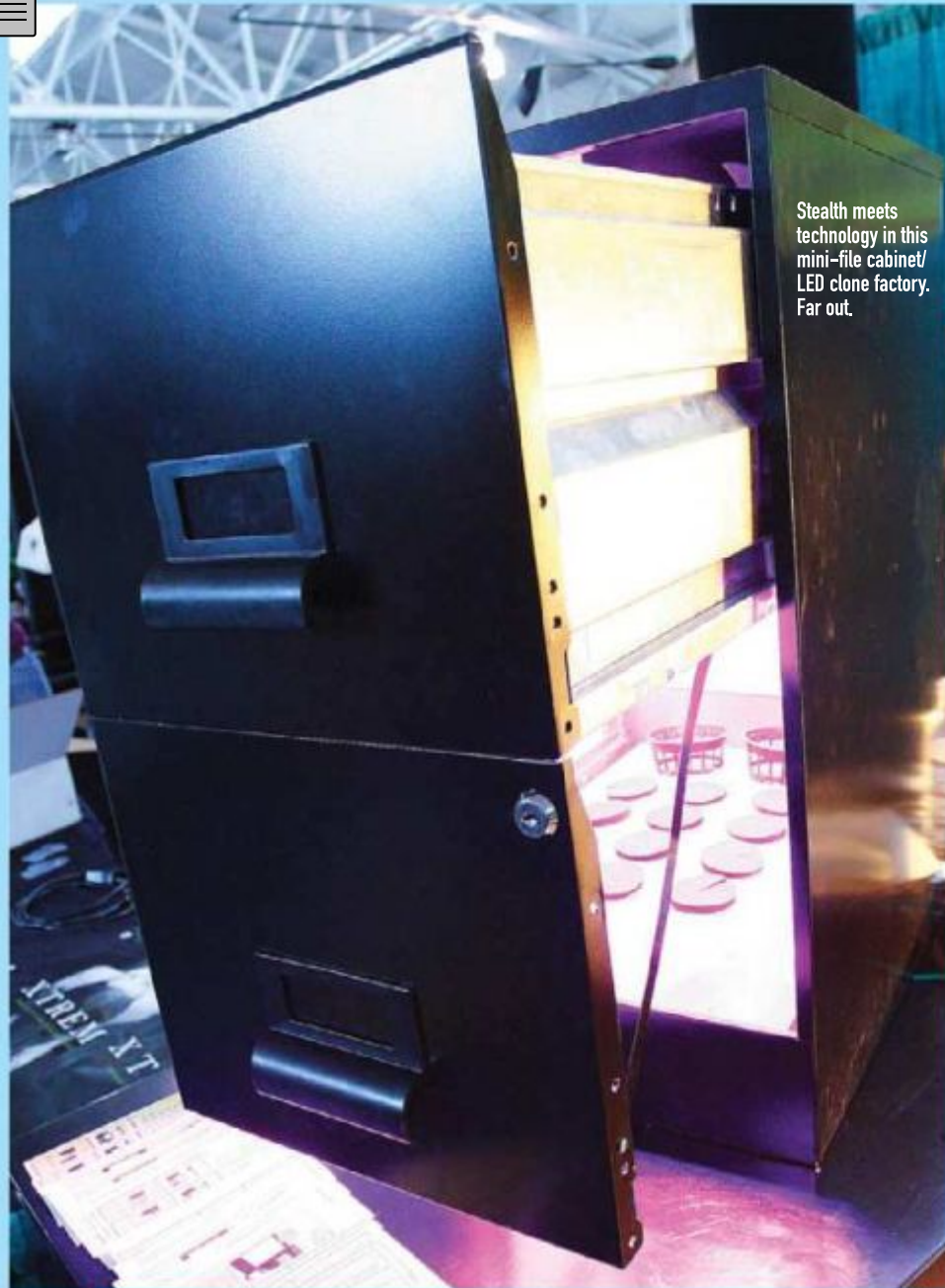
Obviously intended for the commercial grower, this monster machine boasts one subtle difference: the 12-degree angle of the bed-knife, or cutting blade. Many trimmers use an embedded edge that stands perpendicular to the tumblers at 0 degrees, sometimes causing crops to ride up in the tumbler, out of reach of the cutting blade. With a 12-degree angle, gravity forces the material to the base *before* the blade position, thus ensuring that all your buds get trimmed. Sweet!

Another unique feature is the Tumbleweed's decking design, which makes the parts easily removable—and with no bolts fastening any of the parts, it's very easy to clean the machine. The Tumbleweed utilizes a 1,600-cfm vacuum to suck the trim away into a large catch bag; an industrial hopper option is also available that automatically feeds trees into the drum for even faster trimming.

For more info, check out Tumbleweed.bz



"Uh, hey, Bill...where'd my hand go?"



Stealth meets technology in this mini-file cabinet/LED clone factory. Far out.



The dual-chamber "Side2Side" unit features an automated light mover to share light and save money.

Grow Cabinets

Of course, one of the most exciting aspects of the show was the display setup by the SuperCloset team. People always get stoked about stealthy grow systems, especially when they come in turnkey models!

These automated closets come ready equipped with everything a beginner grower needs to get growing right out of the box. With a variety of sizes to choose from, SuperCloset has the ideal grow box for homes and dorm rooms alike. Plus you can choose from soil or hydro systems, as well as a variety of light sizes, to suit your needs.

One new design featured at the show had LED lamps installed in the cabinet, keeping heat emissions low and saving growers on electric costs. All of the SuperCloset cabinets come ready to roll with fans, ventilation and lighting systems, a grow medium and nutrients. Some of the larger units are divided into two units for varying flower cycles, helping growers to achieve more of a perpetual harvest.

For more info, check out SuperCloset.com

Systems & Nutes

As usual, vertical grow systems were all the rage at the expo. The Coliseum, Wall and Cage systems from Arista—as well as their most popular competitor, the smaller-sized EcoSystem grow unit—were all on display this year. With indoor growers very interested in maximizing yield per square foot, these systems offer a range of solutions for growing in small spaces and capturing all available light.

The EcoSystem is an all-in-one, ready-to-grow system that utilizes rockwool slabs as the grow medium. It uses a top-feed drip system for nutrient distribution—and with the plants circling around two vertical 600-watt bulbs, this sucker churns out pounds by the cycle.

The larger-format systems by Arista offer a multitude of options for everyone from the beginner to the advanced grower. The original Coliseum unit holds up to 300 plants and can handle aeroponics, hydro or soil growing. The smaller, more manageable Cage and Wall units can go hydro or utilize soil and soilless grow mediums. All of the systems have lights hanging down their center in vertical fashion, allowing the gardens to make optimal use of the light.

For more info, check out AristaBC.com



And finally, as always, it wouldn't be a gardening show if there weren't tons—*literally* tons—of nutrients on hand. The folks from the ever-popular Humboldt Nutrients were onsite to show off their multi-part nutrient programs for both hydroponic and soil growing. Their organic nutrients and additives were also on display and looking very attractive.

Powerhouse nutrient manufacturer Botanicare was also on hand with a large space to showcase its latest efforts in bio-conscious "organicare" products. A mainstay in the horticultural industry for many years, Botanicare's new organic lines are just now hitting the market in full force.

Using a combination of organic-based grow substrates and organic fertilizers, Botanicare has raised the bar in terms of what to expect from nutrient providers. With indoor and outdoor formulas for the grow medium, these substrates come already fertilized, making subsequent feedings way less frequent (once every two weeks)—not to mention that Botanicare also has a pretty complete line of microbial additives that work in the soils, keeping them as close to nature as you can get while gardening indoors.

For more info, check out HumboldtNutrients.com and Botanicare.net. ✨

And they say this show has nothing to do with weed...

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THE 10TH ANNUAL HYDRO REPORT HYDRO FOR BEGINNERS

Story & photos by Nico Escondido

Welcome to the 10th Annual Hydroponics Report. To celebrate this milestone, HIGH TIMES is giving our readers what they like best: a simple breakdown of do-it-yourself hydro techniques, as well as some basic pitfalls you'll want to avoid when starting out. As a bonus, we've chosen a couple of recurring questions that we receive regularly from you, our readers, regarding hydroponic gardening. Here's to a decade of Hydro Reports! *—The HIGH TIMES Cultivation Department*

LEVEL 1

Growing cannabis hydroponically can be nerve-wracking and frustrating at the outset for the beginner grower. It's an ambitious endeavor to undertake, especially if it's your first time growing weed. But making the choice to go hydro shows gumption, initiative and smarts, since hydroponics, when done right, can produce absolutely huge yields and extremely potent pot. Just as one might learn a video game by repeatedly playing each level until dominance is established, hydroponic gardening also has a learning curve that takes time and dedication. The best approach is to start simple and work your way up through the various levels.



Caption it goes right here and looks like this.

There's nothing like a hydro setup to turn a room into a SEA-OF-GREEN.

PASSIVE HYDROPONICS

Passive hydro systems are an excellent introduction for beginners who wish to get growing hydroponically. Simply put, a passive hydro system is one that has no moving parts, making it a lot less complicated to manage.

These types of hydro systems require no pumps or automated feeding systems. Instead, they rely on the capillary action of the growing medium or a wick. This keeps the beginner grower in the garden a little bit more frequently—but in the end, the extra time spent with your plants will be rewarded with knowledge and better insight into what they need to stay happy and healthy.

Another advantage of starting with passive hydro systems is that they don't require the use of advanced mediums such as rockwool or clay aggregate. Rather, these systems utilize mediums that offer better buffering in the root zone during feedings (more info on this in Level 3). Passive hydro systems work best with soil or pro-mixes, which are excellent choices for beginner growers.



This active hydro table held 300 plants.

WICK SYSTEMS

A wick-system garden is a classic option for those wishing to grow with an easy-to-use passive hydro set-up. The premise here is self-explanatory: Plants are set in pots or larger grow boxes that contain a reservoir at the base. The reservoir is periodically filled with a nutrient solution that is left to be absorbed, or wicked up, by a wick or the grow medium.

The wicks in these systems can vary, but more often than not they're simple cloth ropes that run from the root zone down to the reservoir basin. The wicks soak up the water, delivering H₂O and nutrients to the roots. Watering will depend on the age and size of your plants, as well as the volume of the reservoir and grow container. On average, filling the water basin once a day is usually sufficient. Most wick systems will provide an indicator of some sort that shows the water levels in each reservoir, so make sure to look for that when choosing your grow equipment—it will make life in the growroom a little easier for sure.

Some systems rely on the grow medium or the roots themselves to absorb the nutrient solution. For example, well-rooted or older transplanted plants may already have a root system that is elongated enough to reach the reservoir basin. Other types of systems that don't have an actual wick in place may be shallower, or will allow for the grow medium to surround the sides of the reservoir so that the medium itself can easily soak up water and nutrients for root uptake.

GRAVITY-FED SYSTEMS

Gravity-fed hydro systems are an often-overlooked possibility for the home grower. Working well both indoors and out, these systems rely on gravity to move the nutrient solution from a higher starting point to a lower finishing point. Provided you keep the reservoirs full, there is little to monitor other than the health of your plants.

By hanging or stacking plants above one another, growers begin feeding the plant at the top of the chain, while the runoff from each plant feeds the one below. Small holes in each plant pot, or tubes running from each pot's collection saucer to the next, keep the nutrient solution flowing from plant to plant.

For this to work, the nutrient-solution reservoir needs to be placed higher than the first cannabis plant. A valve is placed along the hose leading from the reservoir to the top plant to control when and how much feeding occurs. Smart growers will collect the end runoff from the last plant (or plants, if there are multiple columns) in a basin at the bottom of the system and recycle that nutrient solution by dumping it back into the reservoir at the top.

One attractive feature of this type of system, other than the lack of electronic or moving parts, is that it works well in a vertical setup. Many growers like this because it permits them to utilize their lights more efficiently by hanging them vertically, allowing light to be emitted and absorbed 360 degrees around. Many growers use columns of potted plants hung on walls that circle around a light (or group of lights) hanging from chains down the center of the garden.

LEVEL 2

ACTIVE HYDROPONICS

Active hydro systems are those that actively move the nutrient solution, usually employing a pump to do so. An active hydro system allows for frequent, automated waterings when used in conjunction with a timer or controllers. Cannabis is the perfect plant to lend itself to this kind of system because it grows so fast. Popular active hydro systems include flood-and-drain (ebb-and-flow) trays, top-feed tables and DWC (deep water culture) systems.

RECOVERY VS. DRAIN-TO-WASTE SYSTEMS

One important consideration in choosing an active hydro system is whether or not your setup will be a recovery system or a drain-to-waste system. A recovery system simply means that your nutrient solution will be recycled back into your reservoir after each feeding. Here, the runoff from your grow medium is captured and redirected back to the reservoir, sometimes relying on gravity and sometimes utilizing a pump, depending on how your room is set up.

Active recovery systems are a must for growers who plan to grow on a large scale. Commercial growers would be doing a huge disservice to the environment if they allowed their nutrients to run freely into the earth. Nutrient solutions contain high amounts of nitrates, phosphates and other additives that can pollute land, lakes, rivers and underground watersheds.

Drain-to-waste systems are just that: systems that drain runoff without recirculating it back into the system. To do this, indoor growers need to have easy access to a drain—usually a shower or sink, or possibly a toilet. These types of systems require added attention, as the reservoirs need to be filled regularly and the nutrients mixed more often.



Hydroponic growing is known to produce ridiculous, lush, dense nugs. Nugs on juice!





In this top-feed system, pumps move water from a reservoir through tubes that feed spaghetti lines tucked into plant bases.

TOP-FEED SYSTEMS

Perhaps one of the most underrated hydroponic systems out there today, top-feed systems are an excellent way to ensure large yields of healthy buds. These systems feed plants from the top of the growing medium via small tubes that are fed by larger hoses running out of the reservoir and along the rows of plants. These systems usually run on a table or in large trays, as there is ample runoff that needs to be collected and either recirculated back into the system or run to waste.

Using a combination of a submersible pump and timer, growers can feed their gardens as often as they want, especially if they're reusing the nutrient solution that runs out of the medium after each watering. This means, however, that the selection of the proper growing medium is key. A medium that retains the right amount of moisture is essential to prevent too much water from being held, which can collapse the medium and prevent air penetration.

Rockwool is the most popular choice among advanced growers for top-feed systems. Another good possibility is to install drip emitters rather than having periodic "mini-floods" of your table. While slightly more difficult to set right, drip emitters keep a steady supply of nutrient feed coming to the root system and can be an excellent way to maintain the right balance of air and water in your root zone. Drip emitters also work better with expanded clay aggregate than top-feed spaghetti lines. This is because the clay will hold less water than rockwool, but the drip system will keep a steadier stream of feed going to your roots.

DWC/BUCKET SYSTEMS

DWC (deep water culture) systems—or bucket systems, as they're sometimes called—are a superb way to grow very large, lush cannabis plants. These systems can be used both indoors and out, as they're simple to run and require little maintenance. Used outdoors with the power of the sun's natural light, they allow gardens to get very big. Used indoors with the proper atmosphere, a 12- or 16-bucket system can produce some of the largest yields of any hydro system for a one-room setup.

Single-bucket DWC systems utilize large (5-gallon) pails as both the growing container and a self-contained reservoir for each individual plant. Other DWC systems connect the buckets together, which in turn are fed by a large barrel or drum reservoir. In both types of DWC system, the plants sit in netted baskets that slide into holes cut in the bucket lids. The net baskets hold a small amount of medium—usually clay pellets, rockwool or coco-coir—with the roots dangling deep down into the bucket.

Depending on the type of DWC system you use, the roots will be supplied with nutrient solution from either the top or bottom of the bucket. Most single-bucket units use a small pump inside the bucket to pump water continuously up to the lid, where an emitter sprays or drips it out into the grow basket. The water then slides down the roots and ends up back in the self-contained reservoir. This system not only allows the roots to dangle in oxygen-rich air, but also helps to oxygenate the water as it collects again in the reservoir.

Larger, multi-bucket DWC systems use a base reservoir to periodically fill all the buckets for minutes at a time, allowing roots to soak up water and nutrients. When the nutrient solution drains back to the main reservoir, the roots continue to hang in the buckets, getting plenty of oxygen for supercharged growth. Root-balls in these systems grow thick and hardy, producing bigger stems, longer branches and, of course, huge buds.



Large reservoirs serve as nutrient mixing stations for bigger hydro systems.

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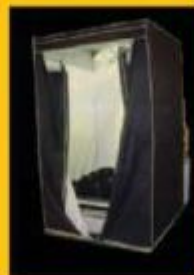
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This top-feed system uses rockwool cubes on top of rockwool slabs.



Expanded clay pebbles hold rockwool plugs in this flood-and-drain system.

MEDIUMS, NUTRIENT LOCK-UP & BUFFERING

Choosing a grow medium for your hydroponic garden is a crucial step in ensuring the success of your crop. Depending on the type of system you're using, the medium can make or break your harvest. The medium you select for a passive hydro system will be different from the medium for an active one, because of the varying nature of these systems.

For example, in a passive hydro system, the medium has a tendency to stay very wet—something you don't want to happen. Soggy grow mediums hold less air, which not only slows nutrient uptake by the roots but also deprives them of oxygen. (Remember, roots breathe *oxygen* while leaves breathe *CO₂*.) To counter this problem when using a passive system, look for an airy medium that will dry fast and allow air to permeate the root zone. This poses a tough challenge because, as discussed earlier, you also

want the medium to be able to soak up water (in fact, you're counting on it, since that's how a passive system works). The best choice for a passive system is usually a light soilless mix, something peat-based with perlite or coco mixed in.

In active hydro set-ups, the challenge is similar, as growers need the medium to be able to drain well, dry out and then get watered again. Here, your choices are more plentiful, since you're not relying on the medium to attract moisture; instead, you're introducing water into the medium. Fast-drying, airy mediums such as expanded clay, large rockwool cubes or shredded coco fiber are all good choices here.

But this is where another important consideration needs to be taken into account—nutrient lock-up. Nutrient lock-up occurs at the root level when salts build up and block the roots' uptake of nutrients. This is more commonly seen with the use of chemical or synthetically produced nutrients, but it can occur with any feeding program, even organics, if you're not careful.

The problem in working with some of these inert mediums, such as clay or rockwool, is that they offer little or no buffering. In short, roots absorb nutrients in a chemical reaction—but if the plants are allowed to attract strong nutrients directly to their roots, the roots can burn. Mediums that have a higher CEC rating (for "cation exchange capacity") have a better ability to retain nutrients and allow the roots to absorb them at a slower, more natural pace. The higher the CEC rating, the more the medium helps to buffer the intense electrical charges that are happening on the delicate roots as part of the plant's nutrient uptake (more on this in Level 4).

The best way to avoid a feeding catastrophe is to use a medium suited to your level of experience. Rockwool and clay are advanced growing mediums for hydroponic users; the best way for beginners to start is to keep it simple. Soil or soilless pro-mixes offer the best buffering as well as excellent moisture retention. Mixing in a light additive like wood chips or coco-coir is a great way to keep your medium airy and oxygen-rich.



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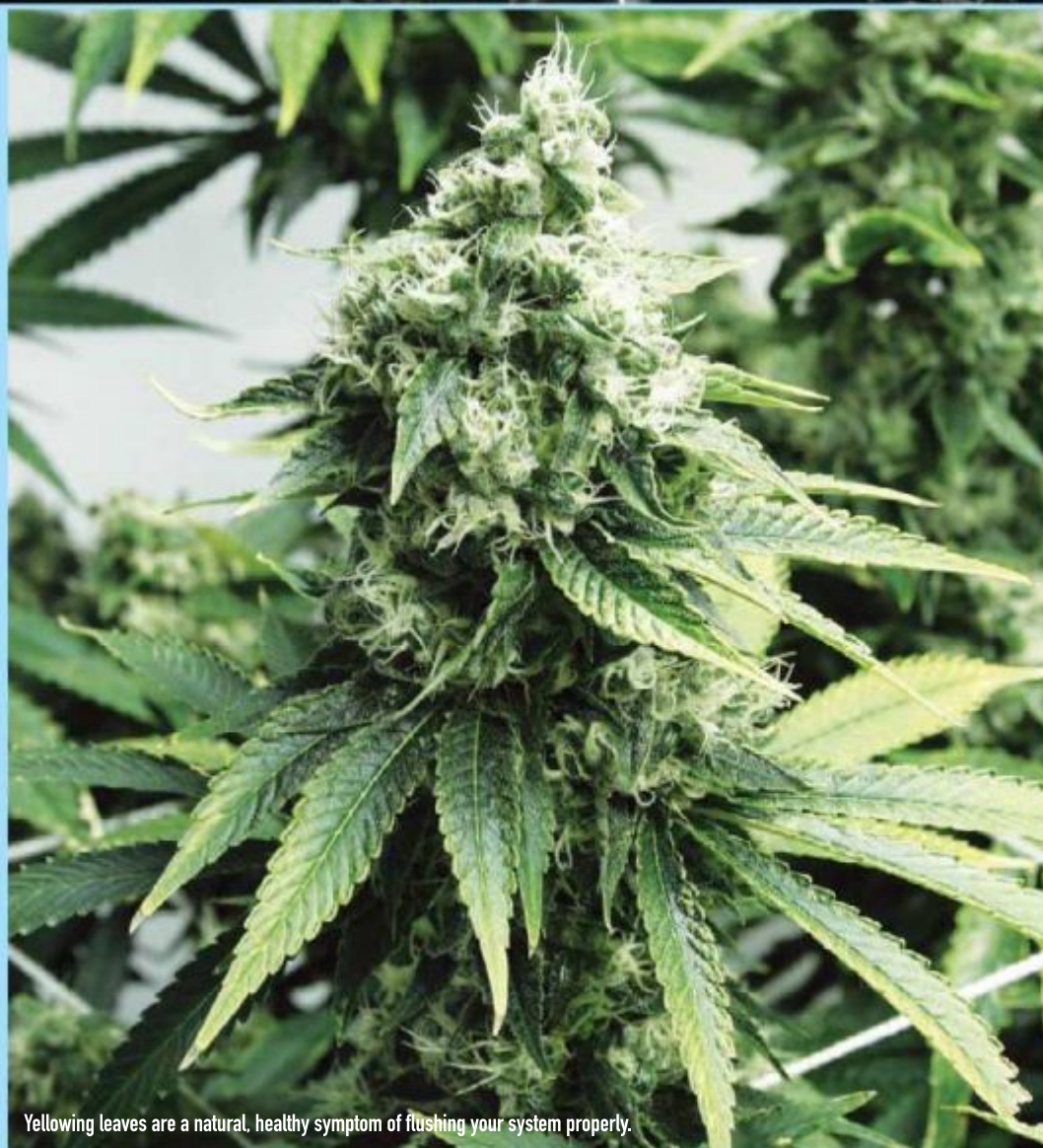
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Flushing systems often with fresh water helps keep hydro gardens healthy.



Yellowing leaves are a natural, healthy symptom of flushing your system properly.

FLUSHING & STERILIZATION

The best way to combat nutrient lock-up in a hydroponic garden is simply to drain your system completely at the end of each harvest and give it a good cleaning and flush. Hot water and a rough sponge can remove more residues and gunk than you might think, and it's a lot safer than using crazy chemicals like bleach or acidic cleaners.

If you plan to reuse your grow medium, it's very important to remove as much organic material as possible. Roots and algae can harbor pests and diseases and transfer those problems to your new crop. Make sure you flush the rockwool slabs with hot water and check that fungi, molds and algae have been removed. If it's your third time around with the same medium, it's best to get rid of it completely and start fresh.

In the event you run into lock-up midway through your cycle, thoroughly flush each individual plant with purified water. Drain your reservoir and all hoses and thoroughly flush them as well. In some instances, you may find that thin spaghetti lines have become encrusted with a nutrient film or crystallized salts from the nutrient solution. In these cases, unfortunately, it's best to replace those damaged feed lines with new ones. Reservoirs usually don't pose much of a problem, since they're easy to get into and scrub out—just make sure you get every square inch. And no matter what, don't repeat the same mistakes with your nutrients the next time. If you run into any of these problems, it's probably best to switch nutrients altogether and look for something more along the lines of a complete all-in-one solution with a low N-P-K (nitrogen-phosphorous-potassium) ratio.

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HYDROPONIC NUTRIENTS

As we touched on in the previous section, nutrients in a hydroponic system require a lot of attention. The primary problem you want to avoid is nutrient lock-up or nutrient burn of the roots. With hydro, this problem is compounded by the fact that in some systems, the application of the nutrient solution is made almost directly to the roots—a very dangerous situation for beginner hydro users.

The first step in combating this problem is to start out with a mild nutrient solution. Try mixing half the recommended dose into your reservoirs and then gradually move up to full doses as you gain a feel for your plants, your strain and your system. Also, steer clear of chemical super-fertilizers like Miracle-Gro—these are not made for hydroponic growing, despite what the manufacturers may claim.

When choosing your nutes, keep it simple. Use a complete N-P-K solution with a low ratio—something along the lines of a 10-5-5 is a good place to start for your vegetative cycle, switching to something like 8-8-10 for your flowering cycle. Ratios less than these are fine, too—and even encouraged for new hydroponic gardeners. Remember that mixing various parts or minerals to create your own nutrient solution can have devastating effects if you don't know what you're doing. Similarly, mixing various nutrients from different manufacturers is also unwise. There are plenty of excellent nutrients out there that require only one or two parts for each phase of growth. Starting out with these before moving on to something more complicated (and expensive) is always a good idea.

One other aspect of hydroponic nutrients that needs to be well managed is the pH level. Grow mediums can play a factor in the pH level of your solution, but more often than not these levels will be a direct result of your nutrients. Mediums like rockwool and clay are relatively neutral, inert substances, so when you add heavy doses of nutrients, the pH level can climb outside the desired range. When growing in rockwool, plants will thrive when the pH is around 6.0. Be sure to check your nutrient solution's pH every day and adjust it accordingly by adding fresh water and pH Up or pH Down as needed.

HYDRO-ORGANIC

Some growers believe that true organic growing can't be achieved with hydroponic gardening. While this debate is ongoing, we can still strive to keep hydro gardens as organic as possible. This can be done in a variety of ways, including using organic mediums and applying organic fertilizers to hydroponic systems.

Certain pro-mixes are organically based and utilize peat or sphagnum as the majority of the mix. Other mediums, like rockwool or clays, are technically not organic, since they're not derived from living things, but they are more or less derived from naturally occurring substances. Although rockwool and clay aggregates do go through synthetic processing, this helps to neutralize their initially high pH levels, which serves to eliminate the need for chemical additives at home—thereby helping to keep things on an organic level.

In terms of nutrients, the choices are many. These days, there are both liquid and solid forms of organic nutrients that can be used in hydroponic growing. The nutrients are derived from organic matter, including once-living organisms that are decayed or decomposing; these ingredients may include seaweed, fish bone or bat guano. The solid fertilizers are made so that they dissolve into liquids, making it easy to add them to reservoirs and apply to gardens.

Some essential additives in hydro-organic growing (and all hydroponic gardens, for that matter) are the non-plant food ingredients such as beneficial bacteria and other microbial agents. These tiny microorganisms are the same ones found in the earth's natural soil. They help promote better root growth and nutrient uptake by mimicking more closely the processes that take place in nature—namely, battling fungi and diseases that would otherwise eat away at roots or compete with them for valuable nutrients and minerals.

Lastly, remember that organic nutrients can be gooey and clumpy and may accumulate in lines and reservoirs. Rather than using harsh chemicals to clean out your system and gear, look for more organic solutions—like using hot water and a little elbow grease to scrub your equipment clean. After all, the last thing you want is to add toxic elements to your system while you're trying to get it clean!



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At the end of the day, it's hard to argue against hydro.

Reader Questions for Extra Points

Hey, HIGH TIMES! Many thanks to your cultivation team for years of helpful tips. Maybe you can shed some light on a question we can't seem to get a definitive answer on: When growing in hydroponics, what is the optimal pH level for your nutrient solution? We have an 8' x 4' ebb-and-flow tray that recycles back to the main reservoir, and we're using rockwool as our medium.

—Clare & Bear, Brooklyn, New York

Hello, Brooklyn! Good news: There's a very clear answer for you—your pH in any hydro system should be between 5.5 and 6.5. The grow medium you use will make a big difference in how those levels fluctuate, so be sure to get a decent pH meter and check your nutrient solution daily. Many people take it for granted that they'll need to check the pH level fairly often, especially in a recirculating system, but you really do. The amount of uptake by your plants at various stages will affect the pH level, as will grow-room temps and the evaporation of your feed.

I have four hydro-bubble jugs under a 400-watt metal halide (MH) light. I'm using Miracle-Gro 24-8-16, and my plants are wilting and dying after only two weeks! My lamp is 22 inches from the tallest plant top, and my medium is crushed rocks. Any idea what the problem is?

—Jim S., Tennessee

There's a slew of problems going on here, Jim. The wilting might be caused by over-watering or nutrient lock-up from your feed solution—or both. The use of Miracle-Gro in a hydroponic system is a definite problem. Miracle-Gro is a synthetic chemical nutrient that lends itself to salt build-ups and nutrient burn. It's also very strong and is manufactured for outdoor (soil-based) gardens—and even then, I'm not sure I'd recommend it! But it should never be used in hydroponics, especially with an N-P-K ratio of 24-8-16. As discussed in the latter sections of this report, much milder nutrient solutions are needed in hydro systems, especially when you have a loose medium like lava rocks or crushed solids that offer little buffering. During the first two weeks of growth, something along the lines of a 6-2-5 ratio is better suited to your system. I'd also recommend switching to an easier medium, such as coco-coir or a pro-mix.

I'm an experienced hydroponic gardener trying my hand with soil. I'm planning to use a recommended soil called Root Organics by Aurora, and I'm getting a couple of clones from a friend, but they're being grown in rockwool. Is it a problem to just transplant the rockwool into the soil, or will it build up acids over time? It's imperative that these cuts grow into healthy mother plants. Should I just stick with hydro, or is soil going to be okay?

—Heretic Hash Head, Earth

These are all very good questions, so let's tackle

them in the order asked. First, it's absolutely no problem to transplant rockwool into soil. Rockwool is an inert and sterile medium (I'm assuming you've used a trusted brand name) and certainly contains no acids. However, I would recommend that instead of soil, you go with the fake stuff—i.e., a soilless mix. While this is technically hydroponics of a sort, I wouldn't put mother plants in a full-on hydro system. Mother plants need to grow big and lush, so instead place them in 3- or 5-gallon pots, where their root systems can grow deep and wide. The peat-based soilless mixes are airy, insect-free and hold plenty of moisture.

My grow space is 3' x 3' x 5'. I have a 400-watt MH light and I'm using an ebb-and-flow hydro system. How many plants can I grow in this space while maintaining good health for each plant? (I don't need to produce in excess.) Also, I'm still not sure what the best drying method is. Your advice has always been most straightforward and beneficial. Thanks so much for your time!

—Kim O., Texas

Thanks for writing and reading, Kim! Since your space is pretty tight, make sure to keep your lamp as close to the top as possible with good exhaust up high. With a 3' x 3' ebb-and-flow tray and a short vertical limit, you might want to consider a sea-of-green (SOG) technique with 9 to 12 short plants. If possible, choose a variety that will grow squat, like an *indica*. In terms of drying, slow is the best way to go. ✨



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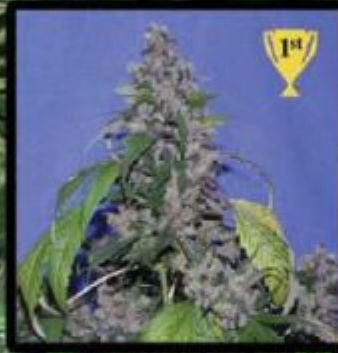
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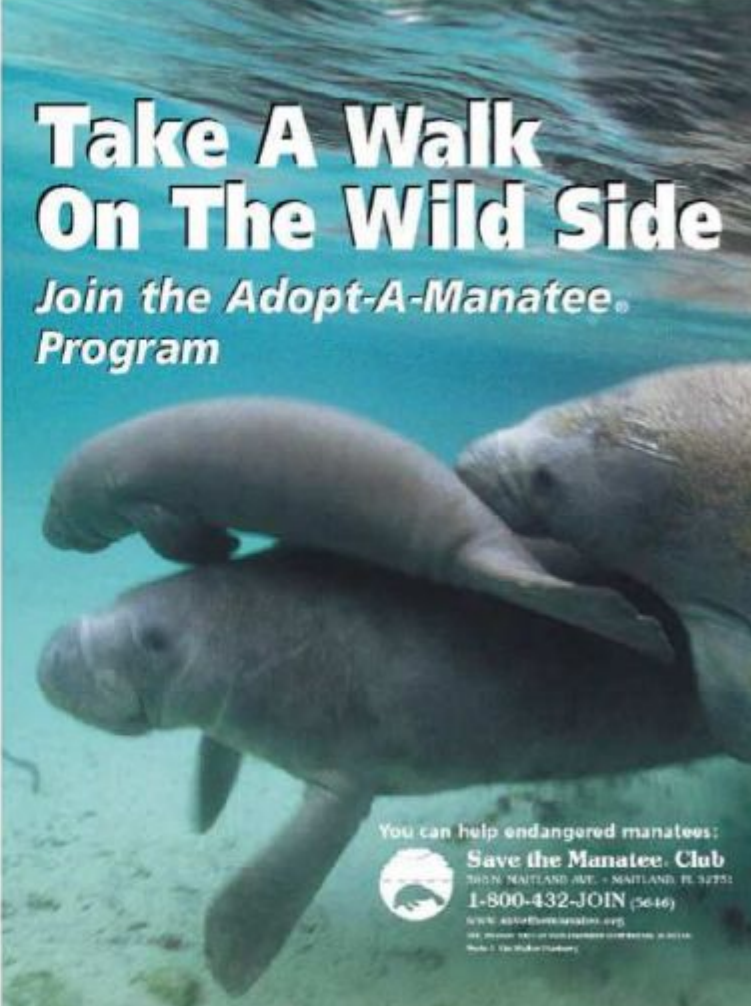
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FRESH PHISH

The biggest, best, strangest and stoniest jamband on Earth angles towards a glorious comeback. **By David Bienenstock**

"We used to do parties at a place called the Ranch, a house on the outskirts of Burlington. There were local Vermont herb growers there and we'd have these parties while huge stalks of weed were drying all over the place. We'd play in a corner and then go hang out with everybody."

—Trey Anastasio, on Phish's earliest gigs.

It's never been cool to like Phish.

We've all heard the clichés countless times, and it's no coincidence that they overlap almost entirely with society's stereotypes for potheads. And so, somehow, digging a band that didn't come shrink-wrapped and pre-chewed made you a "mindless, dirty hippie" who only liked their endless, sloppy noodling because you were high (*well, okay, it certainly never hurt to burn one before a show, but still ...*). Meanwhile, on your left flank, some old Deadhead would be hating on Phish, calling them a pale imitation, without the outlaw edge or deep lyrics of the original (*well, okay, you didn't often see Hells Angels on acid crying their way through "Run Like an Antelope," but still ...*).

Anyway, why focus on who and what Phish wasn't, or never even tried to be—supposed virtues like musical brevity, slick packaging and mass appeal? Instead, as the most influential and eccentric band of the '90s prepares for a return to quirky glory, think about it this way: Sometimes, something's so good that not everybody gets it. In fact, we're just lucky they never made the whole thing illegal.

Founded in 1983 by four friends at the University of Vermont, Phish ignored radio and MTV back when there was no other game in town, building a fan base through epic live shows, freely shared concert tapes and good old word of mouth. By the time the first new morning of the new millennium dawned over an obscure stretch of swamp in the center of Florida's "alligator alley," Phish had played for nearly eight hours straight, throwing an unforgettable New Year's Eve

party for 85,000 fans, not to mention hosting the largest paid concert on Earth that night—outdrawing KISS, Elton John, Eminem, the Eagles, Eric Clapton, Billy Joel and many other marquee names.

Now dig this: No official sponsor or corporate logo appeared anywhere near that briefly transformed stretch of swamp, an oasis of weirdness complete with an enchanted forest—built from scratch and lasting only as long as it took the last, lingering Phish-head to stumble off into the 21st century. And while Phish may not have been self-aggrandizing "radical" rockers like Rage Against the Machine, they did it all themselves, including producing their earliest albums, promoting their earliest club gigs, building a homegrown support staff for business operations, tours and massive special events, overseeing self-actualized charitable organizations, and implementing an elaborate mail-order system to sell low-cost, Ticketmaster-free tickets directly to the masses.

While we're at it, Phish also played a tour-long game of chess against the collective wisdom of their concert crowds, invented the glowstick battle, filled Madison Square Garden with a blizzard of artificial snow, jammed out a surprise set from the top of an air traffic control tower, tried (unsuccessfully) to set the world's record for the most people doing the same dance at once, serenaded Boston Garden from inside a giant flying hot dog, covered entire albums on Halloween, welcomed the vacuum cleaner as a percussion instrument, and generally set out to treat their followers like co-conspirators instead of customers.

Geez, sounds like fun, doesn't it? But, you know, it's a hell of a lot cooler to shuffle your feet and sway gently in place while Bright Eyes goes on and on about all the soft, delicate, soulful things he thinks about, or something ... and you'll be perfectly safe in the knowledge that nobody's calling you a hippie.

Meanwhile, when the smoke cleared, Phish greeted the sunrise at Big Cypress—the three-day, Y2K-compliant music and camping festival that most phans, including a three-quarters majority of the band, consider the scene's all-time high—after jamming out so long and so hard that first light revealed a giant field littered with bodies lying in the

grass. Phish had literally rocked their fans, if not themselves, to the point of exhaustion.

That night, December 31, 1999, was the peak moment of a long, hard climb that started in the basement of a UVM dormitory. That's where Phish made their official live debut at a Reserve Officers' Training Corps dance, performing for a quickly disgruntled



In 2003, Phish seized control of the former Loring Air Force Base in Limestone, Maine and hosted one their infamously anarchistic three day music and camping festivals.

'There's this large group of human beings who think that we totally suck.'

band squabbling, drug problems, break-ups, reunions, farewells and, now, a triumphant rebirth. Or is it?

Instead of one big, attention-grabbing announcement touting a new album and a huge new tour, like countless cynical, cash-grabbing reunion acts of the past, Phish instead spent the summer swimming through a flood of rumors and innuendo that started when the band reunited at the 2008 Jammy Awards in New York City last May, where they accepted a Lifetime Achievement Award but didn't play together. Still, the joint appearance put guitarist Trey Anastasio, drummer Jon Fishman, bassist Mike Gordon and keyboardist Page McConnell together in one place for the first time since 2004's emotional farewell concert in Coventry, VT.

And, alas, this isn't the first time they've left and returned. After the millennial high point in Florida, Phish toured for one more summer before embarking on an indefinite hiatus from performing and recording that would last for more than two years. On October 7, 2000, at the Shoreline Amphitheater in Mountain View, CA, they encored with a 23-minute version of "You Enjoy Myself" and then left the stage without a word, as the Beatles' *Let It Be* played from the speakers. Rumors for the break included all the usual suspects, but after two decades on the road, most phans accepted that everybody needs a vacation sometimes, even from a dream come true.

For the band, the hiatus offered an opportunity to breathe deeply and explore some long-back-burnered side projects, without the constant demands of running a massive business enterprise and the hectic touring schedule that supported it. Trey focused on his solo work and formed the supergroup Oysterhead with bassist Les Claypool from Primus and drummer Stewart Copeland from the Police. Mike collaborated with acoustic-guitar legend Leo Kottke and directed experimental movies. Fishman slapped the skins for the Jazz Mandolin Project and his

group of future military leaders who waited exactly four songs before mounting a counteroffensive, kicking the band off the stage in favor of Michael Jackson's *Thriller* album.

Like I said, it's *never* been cool to like Phish.

Or, as lead singer and resident guitar hero Trey Anastasio put it on the 20th anniversary of that fateful

ROTC show: "Even though there's a lot of people into Phish now, it has always felt like there's this large group of human beings who think that we totally suck and they can't understand it at all."

As for the rest of us—or anyone else willing to break with our image-obsessed culture's insistence on pre-approved, measured doses of

conventional nonconformity—there's some great news: Phish will take the stage on March 6, 2009, at the Hampton Arena in Virginia, opening a three-night stand that will officially return the legendary road warriors to the road. Ironically for a band that never fit the mold, it's been the old classic tale of early struggles, massive success, intra-



VINTAGE PHISH ONLINE

HIGH TIMES jumped on board the Phish bandwagon pretty early—in fact, we gave Vermont's Phinest some of their first national media exposure in our July 1992 issue, just before the release of their major-label debut album, *Picture of Nectar*.

"Our fans like to alter their consciousness," bassist Mike Gordon explained when our reporter asked why so many potheads flock to see Phish. "Hopefully, the music is also a consciousness-altering thing."

Want to read more? Head to high-times.com/phish/ for the rest of that story, plus HIGH TIMES' exclusive interviews with Trey Anastasio and Mike Gordon, the band's *Hemp Times* cover story, and our articles on 2004's emotional farewell concert in Coventry, VT, and Phish's almost-reunion at the Rothbury Festival last summer.

Old Phriends: Mike Gordon and Trey Anastasio reunited at last summer's inaugural Rothbury Festival in Michigan. Presumably, it felt so good...

own band, Pork Tornado. And Page formed Vida Blue to showcase his electronica-flavored keyboards and bluesy vocals.

But none of it approached the scale and intensity of what had come before. Instead, that massive mass of energy flowed over into countless smaller acts on the still-burgeoning jamband scene, benefiting everyone from longtime stalwarts like Wide-spread Panic and Phil Lesh to upstarts like Disco Biscuits and Umphrey's McGee—not to mention Bonnaroo, which began in 2002, Langerado, High Sierra, All Good, Wakarusa, 10,000 Lakes and countless other smaller takes on the music-and-camping hippie-festival format.

One problem: Nobody really did it like Phish. Well, actually, a whole laundry list of bands did it like Phish: They jammed and noodled, sang quirky lyrics, let you tape their shows, dressed casual and toured like hell. But nobody did it well enough to step up and take the crown. Then Phish came back from their hiatus with a 2002 New Year's Eve show and, to a lot of ears—including, perhaps, their own—they didn't quite cut it either.

When Phish finally called it quits, apparently for good, less than two years later, they brought it all back home to Vermont for one final blowout. And it certainly felt like a finale to the 70,000 who made it by any means possible to an idyllic farm in Vermont's majestic Northeast Kingdom, not to mention those who never even reached the Promised Land.

Two straight days of torrential rain prior to the big send-off transformed the festival grounds into "the muds" and wiped out 50 percent of the available camping areas before the first car was ever parked. Behind the scenes, the production crew scrambled, but by Saturday it was left to a teary Mike Gordon to make the devastating announcement via the event's own broadcast-radio station: No more room at the inn, kindly turn around and go home.

The result: In classic Phish fashion, what should've been a cosmic bummer—the ultimate sour note to go out on—became one more symbol of

the dedication and, yes, love binding four guys with instruments to the community that grew up around them. And so, after more than 24 hours stuck in traffic, the Phishheads on the side of the road simply ditched over 5,000 cars on Route 91 and walked, often several miles, with their tents, their weed and whatever else they could carry—a journey that drummer Jon Fishman later called "the greatest compliment you could have ever given us."

After that emotional pilgrimage, the post-Phish era started quietly—until the early morning of December 16, 2006, when a police officer in Whitehall, NY, pulled over an erratic driver and discovered Trey Anastasio, a baggie of prescription pills and a small amount of hard drugs. Anastasio was arrested and convicted, entered a drug-treatment program, was briefly jailed for missing a court date, and then fulfilled the requirements of his sentencing while staying out of the limelight. When he performed a brief medley of Beatles tunes at the Jammy Awards before joining up with the rest of Phish to accept the band's Lifetime Achievement Award, it was his first time onstage in well over a year.

And that's when the reunion rumors really got serious, especially after Trey told *Rolling Stone*: "When Phish broke up, I made some comment about how I'm not gonna go around playing 'You Enjoy Myself' for the rest of my life ... it's symbolic of how much I lost my mind or how much I lost my bearings or something, because at this point in time I would give my left nut to play that song five times in a row every day until I die. I certainly thought about that while I was in jail."

Page followed up with a post to phish.com: "It took a couple of years after the break up to begin talking to my old band mates, but once the conversations began to flow it wasn't long before the friendships were rekindled. And I can honestly say that I'm closer with all of them now than I've ever been in our 20-year relationship I would say that the announcement of a reunion is premature. However, later this year we hope to spend some time together and take a look at what possi-

ble futures we might enjoy. In fact, the only real decision that has been made is that when we do get together, it will only be the four of us, hopefully with no distractions. I am really looking forward to that."

Naturally, phans couldn't help but notice that three of the four were booked to play separate shows at last summer's inaugural Rothbury Festival in Michigan. Drawing the kind of tight-knit crowd that once flocked to Phish's annual multi-day camping experiences, Rothbury revolutionized the entire concept by making environmentalism an integral part of the experience. So would there be some kind of big announcement, if not a sneak-attack reunion?

On the last day of a legend-in-the-making Fourth of July weekend, Trey Anastasio emerged from his long exile to play his scheduled afternoon set with nothing but an acoustic guitar to hide behind. The once (and future) Phish frontman returned to action at Rothbury for a performance stocked mainly with old familiar songs, including "Sample in a Jar," "Farmhouse" and "Waste." The previously unannounced arrival of bassist Mike Gordon midway through the deeply moving show brought thunderous applause—and a few tears of joy.

"If only we could find a drummer and keyboard player," Trey joked significantly, then added: "But it's got to start with the songs, so you can be our test audience."

The duo then ably performed two new compositions, drawing raves and further heightening speculation about a reunion. An hour later, Anastasio returned the favor, joining Gordon's band on electric guitar for a few numbers, including a cover of the Beatles' "She Said She Said" that lured Phish drummer Jon Fishman to the kit.

With an old-school Phish flag waving in the crowd and 75 percent of the band rocking away onstage, it appeared to be only a question of when and how—not if—Phish would return. And now the time has come. So remember, it may not be cool to like Phish, and it never was, but that's exactly what makes it so damn cool. ✨

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Albuquerque: Leo 505-271-0381 www.nmnormi.org 2-300 in '08 High Noon, University & Central.

Alicante: Antonio <alcanabis@hotmail.com>

Alex: Keary keary@potterfreedom.com 580 327 1577 www.potterfreedom.com May 1, Downtown Square.

Amherst: Cannabis Reform Coalition 413-545-1122 John Werner Extravaganza April 20th--Amherst Common.

Amsterdam: Rob <Dyberns@gmail.com, Jeroen <Koesthmad@gmail.com> Meet up!

Ann Arbor: Adam adambrook@hotmail.com 313-999-0329 www.hashbash.com Noon, April 4, Diag--worldwide kickoff.

Antwerp: Joep Domes info@encod.org Tel. 00 32 (0)3 293 0886 (ENCOD). Lange Lozanostraat 14, 2018 Antwerpen, Belgium www.encod.org 14.00 at Vrijdagmarkt.

Arcata: Raphael rsonormi@gmail.com (707)362-1432

Athens: ikosporoi@yahoo.gr 0030 697 77 05 226 (mobile) www.legaliseprotestfestival.blogspot.com Friday, May 1, Colloquium; Saturday, 17.00 to 20.00 hs, Hemp Festival...

Atlanta: Paul Cornwell paulc@worldcamp.org Iv msg 404-462-7959 www.worldcamp.org 150 folks in '08.

Auckland: Chris Fowles 09 302 52555 info@normi.org.nz www.normi.org.nz/events NORMI N.Z. PO Box 3307, Shortland St, Auckland, NZ. Albert Park High noon to 4:20

Austria: Hector Sanchez hector@outgrowiblog.org or Brad@TexasNORMI.org 512-902-4447 March from Zilker Park to the Capitol for a free concert/rally, then back.

Barcelona: la_m_a_c_a@yahoo.es 34-679-113613

Belgrade: Vutra Organizacija info@vutra.org www.vutra.org

Belgium: Lee leestreet166@hotmail.com 360-756-5177

Belmar: Jesse Patrick Lynnrydskyr223@yahoo.com 732-581-1846

Belo Horizonte: Baden bjota@hotmail.com or behorizonte@marchadamaconha.org +55 313462 0458 / 318865 2228 15.00 hs, Praca da Estacao.

Bergen: Piotr Gleichgewicht post@normi.no +47 22 46 39 84 http://normi.no/gmm/ Gather forget, 15.00 hs.

Berlin: Steffan info@hanparade.de www.hanparade.de

Berlin: Hanparade c/o The Hanfmuseum, Muhlendamm 5, 10178 Berlin, Germany

Bernada: Carol rastafariembassy@yahoo.com 441 532 6524

Berne: Most mos@fourtwenty.ch elcarahito@bluewin.ch +41 79 702 83 78 www.cannaparty.ch www.hanf-koordination.ch Party 420 Trendshop, Kramgasse 3, 3011 Bern.

Binghamton: Justine Grate justine391@yahoo.com 607-786-2410. Noon to 4:20 Wash. St. Bridge

Boise: Rev Tom Hayes (208)384-1421 MEHEMP@aol.com www.mehemp.tv Rally 2pm Julia Davis Park entrance, Capitol Blvd. March 4pm to statehouse, 4:20 pm speakers.

Boston: Chris Drew cd73115@attstate.edu 919-270-0572

Boston: Fred Hapgood www.pobox.com/~fhapgood or Bill Downing masscan@verizon.net 781-944-2266 www.mass-cans.org MASSCAN/NORMI PO. Box 266, Georgetown, MA 01833. 2 PM Gov't Center, march on Quincy Market.

Boulder: Jeff Christen-Mitchell Hempopia@comcast.net www.hempopia.org 303-449-4854 March th. the Hill @ 4:20, 13th & College to B'way via Pearl St. Mall west to east.

Budapest: juhikap@gmail.com Hemp Seed Assoc. (36) 30 474 2403 www.kendermag.hu or Peter sarosp@tasz.hu www.tasz.hu (36)1279-2236cel: 36-20-462-2494.

Buenos Aires: Alejandro Sierra gmm@revistathc.com www.gmm.revistathc.com or THC Magazine mundoflorid@hotmail.com 54 (11) 15 4053 3650

Butale: 1 pm, Niagra Square.

Burlington: Denny Lane onepatriot@gmavt.net (802)496-2387 05673 looking for young insurgents...

Cadiz: Manuel Casas agedadiz@hotmail.com +34 616 958 679 Astara, Asociacion Galitana de Usuarios de Cannabis

Calgary: Keith Fagin 2009@Calgary420.ca 403-863-2011 http://Calgary420.ca/City Hall - 800 Macleod Tr. SE 1 PM.

Call: Trincheria Ganja Collective & Assoc. for Pop. Communication & Media. lasplantasnosoncomoclasipintan@gmail.com www.trincheraganja.blogspot.com

Capetown: Chris J gmm@normi.org.za wired@weed.co.za fax: 0866551933 cell: +27847362270

Caracas: Enrique Dorta enriqueortad@gmail.com +34928346811 http://asocanaven.mforos.com/11691169-cannabis-en-la-republica-bolivariana-de-venezuela/

Chalon-sur-Saone: Farid farid@no-log.org Skype: farid3h 061-481-5679 (cell) www.myspace.com/farid71100

Champaign: Ashley abarys2@illinois.edu. 847.707.8690

Charlotte: Nick soobalzed420@yahoo.com 704-497-2022

Chicago: Richey richy.gupta@gmail.com 847-275-0473. Dan danilov@illinoisnormi.org 847 341 0591 Federal Plaza, noon.

Chico: Dinah Coffman greenindica@live.com 530-345-1997 www.pol-party.com 2:15 PM, Free speech Area @ the U.

Christchurch: Blair mid@greens@gmail.com +64 3 389-4056 cell: 027 2657219 Noon Cathedral Sq.; march to Latimer Sq.

Cincinnati: Happy Hempstress hempstress@hempprook.com 513-684-HEMP www.hemprock.com 400 people in '08.

Cleveland: Cannabis Connections 216-521-9333 or Jerry jerry@herbarior.net March R Public Square to Justice Cntr.

Colima: Manuel Ramos manelramos@gmail.com or Catarina 351 914 85 8990

Colorado Springs: Dr. Robert Melamed melamed@uccs.edu 719 641-1168 www.uccs.edu/~melamed MMMM-Music for Medical Marijuana-- Acacia Park, 12-5.

Columbia: Dan Viets danviets@justice.com (573) 443-6868 Peace Park on 7th and Elm St on Saturday, 2 PM - dusk

Columbus: Chris Ryan old_jack_tar@hotmail.com (614)

551-0845 Rally 4:20 17th & High St. March at 4:45 PM.

Comodoro Rivadavia: Eloy escasez@comodoro@gmail.com www.escasezcomodoro.blogspot.com

Copenhagen: Klaus Taxen@hampgartiet.dk (45)26649433 www.hampgartiet.dk Departs Christiana 14:00

Cordoba: mike mikofari@hotmail.com 00543548 15567647 or Edith cortadoflor@yahoo.com.ar www.de-vertampier.com A las 16:20 hs. on parque Las Heras.

Crescent City: Cole colegiddings814@yahoo.com 707-218-4410. 12:45 pm, Tower Clock, 3rd & Frett St. by the Pool.

Cuiaba: (Brazil) cuiaba@marchadamaconha.org 16:00 hs, Praca Ipiranga.

Dallas: Elisabeth secretary.dfnormi@yahoo.com or Ryan 817-896-3619. Noon til 3p.m. @ the Federal Bldg.

Dansville: Jim Macaluso (Ves Sparks) jhbernip@gmail.com 585-489-3825 Starts Amts Plaza, 2-30 pm

Darwin: Fiona Clarke fionac@napti.org +61 8 8941 9921 mobile 0415 16 2525 or lq@napti.org www.napti.org Meet Raintree Park 2pm, walk to Esplanade. BYO smoke...

Denver: Tiny Martinez denvergmm@hotmail.com www.myspace.com/denvergmm 720-365-8187 500 people. Sunday May 3, 4PM State Capitol.

Des Moines: Terry Mitchell (515) 799-4442 www.lownormi.org/ 200 in '08! Noon W. Capitol Steps.

Detroit: Bob 734-697-3947 or Paul 313-622-3429 paul@detroitliberation.org www.detroitliberation.org Rally Grand Circus Park noon, Woodward Ave sidewalk March at 4:20pm

Dover: Richard J. Schimelfenig hempran@verizon.net High noon, behind Legislative Hall.

Dunedin: Abe Gray graab419@student.otago.ac.nz The Octagon-noon to 4:20. Speakers, music, rally, march

Durban: Chris J gmm@normi.org.za and wired@weed.co.za fax: 0866551933 cell: +27847362270

Eau Claire: Bryan cosmicpash@hotmail.com 715-379-7267

El Bolson: pitrasaur@hotmail.com +54 (02944) 0156530034

Egana: Dan 541-517-0557 www.willamettevalleyNORMI.org or Kris Hempsters@aol.com 800-556-2012

Fayetteville: Ryan normi@uark.edu or Jordan 501-609-6160

Fortaleza: Billy fortaleza@marchadamaconha.org (85) 87043765 (85) 32794573 www.marchadamaconha.org 14:00 hs. Ponta Metálica - Praia de Iraema.

Frankfurt: Ingrid. (49) 177 34 67 861 ingrid.wurm@gmx.de or www.hanf-initiative.de

Fl. Bragg: Bruce Davis 707-961-6099 or Vergo contactvergo@yahoo.com Rally at Town Hall, Friday May 1st.

Fl. Collins: James and Lisa Masters Sunrhyth@aol.com 970-388-4029 Civic Center Park. 10 am - 6 pm

Garberville: Paul Encimer Encimer@hotmail.com 707-923-4488 Gather high noon under the town clock.

Garden Grove: Jeff jefbanaia@yahoo.com 714-801-1433

Hachita: Bill Gallagher lifeline@gmail.com 505 436 2250

Halifax: Debbie Stultz-luxin chair@mumma.com 902-824-0321 www.mumma.ca 300 people in '08! 1-5 PM N. Common.

Hamilton: Max hamilton@normi.org.nz www.normi.org.nz/events High Noon - 4:20, Memorial Park.

Hilo: Roger rogerchristie@yahoo.com 808-961-0488 www.thc-ministry.org 10 AM Kilo Bayfront Soccer Field.

Hot Springs: Tim timspace2002@yahoo.com 501-617-3218

Houston: Tami cannabis.tlower@gmail.com 832-863-6281 http://houstonnormi.org

Indianapolis: Neil skywolf6465@yahoo.com 317-454-4061 normi@normi.org 4:20 pm "High on the Hill" 972-4455.

Jacksonville: Robert spruett01@hotmail.com 904-400-3361

Jakarta: Fredy fr_edy78@yahoo.com pioneer_of_transformation@yahoo.com +6 62-817-686-2569

Jerusalem: Ohades ohad@ale-yarok.org +972-54-489-0360 or Joe NeedleR@aol.com +972 52 598 8794 http://cannabis.chassidis.blogspot.com Noon, May 1, Sacher Park.

Johannesburg: Chris J gmm@normi.org.za wired@weed.co.za +27847362270

Joplin: Kelly Maddy kelly@joplin-normi.org 417.291.0135 www.joplin-normi.org

Kansas City: mohemp@missourihemp.com 816-536-5067 www.missourihemp.org or 816-931-6169. Noon march from J.C. Nichols Fountain to S. Moreland Park concert...

Kiev: dead@donat@gmail.com or Anton +3 80 63 478 50 24) - http://nesam.in.ua http://vejournal.com/community/legaliz_ua March fr. Sofievskaya sq. to Maidan Nezalezhnosti.

Kokomo: Gary Evers 765-868-0213 Elvie's Parking lot, 1300 W. Mulberry St 1 PM.

La Laguna: Josafat armiche@cultivadordemaria.es 61783 0961 www.cannaris.com/foros/showthread.php?61613

Las Cruces: Brandie woomb@womb@hotmail.com 575-805-8517

Las Palmas de Gran Canaria: Juan Carlos Gonzalez Martin info@cannaris.com 617830961 www.cannaris.com

Las Vegas: Beth Solos beth@nevadanormi.org 702-542-1597 www.nevadanormi.org

Lawton: Hank Baca dankank@yahoo.com 580-248-3201.

Leathridge: Tamara Carlwright tamaralwe9@hotmail.com 403-331-0682 2 PM Rally at City Hall - 910 4th Ave S.

Lexington: Galwood galwood@fnis.net 859-259-1522 cell: 433-3567 10 AM Main St. Library

Lincels: Jeff Sheppard wthofekisjett@yahoo.com 402-261-4024 4 PM, Neighbors Park, 30th & Randolph.

Lisbon: Pedro Pombeiro march@gladmarjuzana@gmail.com +351 926 026 302 http://mgmlisboa.org

Ljubljana: Matej +386 4 300 121 www.sto-nmms.org

London: Andy andy@cannabistrust.com 44(0)7976825088; or www.protestlondon.co.uk/ or http://ca-uk.org/default.php

Los Angeles: Sister Sosnaya sisterhemp@aol.com 323 232 0935 or Kyle 818-894-4229 www.hempshp.org Noon

March & Rally, Laimert Park, South on Grenshaw Blvd.

Luanda: info@mgmluanda.org www.mgmluanda.org

Madrid: amec.madrid@gmail.com +34 91 5303364 Antón www.amec.org.es 10 Mayo 19 hs, Puerta del Sol.

Medicine Hat: (403) 526-9070 Meet at 808 headquarters 1:30 PM; march to Medicine Hat City Hall.

Mexico City: info@ameca.org.mx. amecannabis@yahoo.com, gregorio_samsa@hotmail.com +52) 55-2166-6034 www.ameca.org.mx/

Miami: David Prado 786-564-7005.

Minneapolis: Chris tc_wright38@yahoo.com or Doug 651-653-8243. Gather Washburn Fair Oaks Park.

Montevideo: Federico La Plaza'za' www.KeepSmoking.TK/www.masnomata@hotmail.com KeepSmoking.TK@gmail.com

Montreal: Boris St. Maurice Boris@mapinc.org or Chantal Arroyo 514.842.4900 or Adam Greenblatt 514-830-1331 www.normi.ca. 1PM, Berni Square.

Moscow: Adam massenbergl420@yahoo.com 509-397-3252 www.marijuanafactorfiction.org 10 am, hempfest to city hall

Moscow: Maria Smirnova mariasmirnova@gmail.com +7926-248-69-38 Sergey Konstantinov usserge@gmail.com +7926-229-98-30 Dmitry Goidyz rastovod@gmail.com +7905-575-63-31 www.legaliz.info "Druzba Narodov" Fountain.

Nancy: Florent Compain <contact@corcordest.net> cell: 33 6 12 54 60 03 www.circnord.com 200 rallied in '08.

Nashville: Mary mariuana@hotmail.com Howie thezow@hotmail.com 615-ACT-HIGH. 250 in '08! Noon, 1st St & Woodland Ave. Cross War Memorial Bridge, circle court house, go down 2nd Ave & up B'way.

Newark: R. J. Schimelfenig Delaware Cannabis Society@verizon.net 302-793-0716 4:20 pm, Main & Chapel.

New Orleans: Jeff Ricketts 504-569-8291 High Noon, next to Cafe DuMond, Decatur & St. Ann. March from Jackson Sq. down Royal to Frenchmen's St. Meet @ Cafe Brazil 4:20

New York: George Selby38@newyorkcity.org 862-266-2911

New York City: Dana 212-677-7180 dana@ophantom.com Cures not Wars, 0 Bleeker St, NYC 10012

Nimbin: Max Stone acrlm@nimbinaustralia.com 61 296 89 1842 www.nimbin-marijuana-march.420-web-hosting.com www.nimbinmardigrass.com

Normal: Stephanie shofte@listu.edu 815-283-9008

Ogden: Happy utahliberty@yahoo.com 801-399-2806, J.T. 801-603-2797 200 rallied in '08. Noon, 25th & Wash.

Okinawa: Cannabist info@cannabist.org www.cannabist.org/ +81-9-3706-6885

Olympia: James Baglio 360-915-3765

Omaha: Melanie mmelz5@yahoo.com makepotlegal555.org 402-415-7373 1-5 Central Park Mall @ 13th & Farnam, march to Old Market @ 3.

Orlando: Brendon Rivard president@normiucf.com 561-308-8659 www.normiucf.com or http://thestonerarmy.com

Osaaka: Cannabist info@cannabist.org www.cannabist.org/ +81-9-3706-6885

Oslo: Piotr mm@normi.nogmm@globalmarijuanamarch.org +47 22 46 39 84 http://normi.no/gmm/ Normal, Hjelmsgt 3, NO-0355 Oslo, Norway. Gather, Youngstorg 15.00 hours.

Paducah: Paula Willett pioneerpaula@ncschi.com 270 703 0559/970 5253 Meet up, Dolly McNeill Plaza 11:00 a.m.

Paia: Brian 808 579 8320 www.patientswithouttime.com

Palm Springs: Aurora aurora.maldonado@yahoo.com 760-660-1403 First time -- 200 people.

Paris: Jean Pierre Galland circ75idf@cic-asso.net 33 685 54 48 32678 86 55 89 www.mmparis.info/ Paris 5 to 7 PM Place de Bastille.

Peoria: Richard J. Rawlings richrawlings@smjparty.com 309-839-1976/648-2525 http://usjparty.com March from County Court to Federal Court. 2 to 4:20 PM.

Philadelphia: Rob Dougherty chair@phillynormi.org 215-586-3483. Meet Broad & South at 4:00 pm. Marching down South Street and rallying, South & @ 2nd St 6:00pm.

Phoenix: Kathleen free420arizona@aol.com 480-926-7288 http://myspace.com/phoenixmarch or Jacob (480)-294-5090

Pietermaritzburg: Marcus jppes@normi@gmail.com

Portland: Emma Donovan MaenelyNORMI@yahoo.com 954-801-3490 www.myspace.com/mainlynormi Gather for March 12:00 noon @ Monument Square.

Portland: 503.239.6110 www.ornormi.org Alicia 503-985-7704 or Madeline yerbanena@hotmail.com 750 in '08! March from Pioneer Courthouse Square.

Porto: Filipe info@mgmporto.org +351916747162. Carla +35 191 7924889 or Joao +351914207585 www.mgmporto.org

Porto Alegre: Denis Petuco principativo.rs@gmail.com or portolegre@marchadamaconha.org +5181599791 Raphael. www.principio-ativo.blogspot.com

Potsdam: Annett Bauer verein@chillout-pdm.de 0049-331-581 3231 www.chillout-pdm.de www.liberationday.de

Prague: Jiri Jirka@legalizace.cz +420 605 115 146 or Robert robert@legalizace.cz +420 773 691 561 www.legalizace.cz May 9. March across Vltava river to Letna Plain.

Previdencia: Cassandra queen_of_rock3@yahoo.com 401-461-2353 Impromptu Steinhause rally--20 in '08.

Raleigh-Durham: Jeff Badalucco inc.ca@hotmail.com 919-247-2644 Rally State Capitol Bldg Sunday May 3

Reading: Chantel Ybarra queensped@3@yahoo.com 530-410-6838 Friday, May 1st.

Regina: Daniel joybuzard@normisaskatchewan.com www.normisaskatchewan.com Meet Victoria Park 4:20.

Richmond: Chris Holden holdencb@bcu.edu 804-908-4919 Noon to 4:20, Monroe Park, 400 people in '08.

Rio de Janeiro: William cortado@marchadamaconha.org www.marchadamaconha.org or Louz +55-212-515-1102

Riverton: Tim Bach tim_bach_ayahoo.com 307-463-

2448/851-2173 March @ 4 pm from Collage down main Street Right on Federal to Fairgrounds--CWC field.

Rome: gionatamondiale@millionmarijuanamarch.info 0039 3303393589 Mefisto gic@ilmentati.org 35,000 in '08!

Rosario: Leandro 3mrosario@gmail.com Agrupacion Cogolitos, http://3mrosario.blogspot.com 200 people in '08.

Sacramento: Jolie jusjzcc4me@yahoo.com 916-225-9058 or Ed 916-305-1314 freeweb.com/sacsmokers & mspace.com/sacsmokers Noon, Capitol, 3rd Saturday, May.

Salem: MERCY Center 503-363-4588 MERCY_Salem@hotmail.com www.MercyCenters.org Gather W. Summer & Center for sidewalk march to mall across from Capitol.

Salt Lake City: J.T. 801-991-0852. Fallon fallon@norjac.com

Salvador: Sergio sergiocogolito@yahoo.com.br (71) 81771488 noticiasasabicas.blogspot.com http://fates.cpq.br /3062718910317729 14:00 hs, Praca Campo Grande.

San Antonio: Eric Perez xdoxduktape@200@yahoo.com 210-897-2505 (3-6 PM) POB 37, Nafata, TX 78059

San Diego: Israel.solorio@yahoo.com (619)-757-4851

San Francisco: Lynette 415-256-9328 Cannabis Day Sat. May 2, Civic Center Plaza, noon till 8 pm, 7000 in '07!

San Juan: Zen CaribbeanSpacePort@gmail.com 787.346.1940 http://HempEvolutionNYC.tribe.net

Santa Barbara: David Crockett Williams gear2000@lightspeed.net www.cal-hemp08.org Join Peace Walk up State St.

Santa Rosa: Jewel Mathieson jewel@vons.com 707-256-9706 Sonoma County Fairgrounds, noon to 5, rally@concert.

Santos: Marcelo tiksurfer1213@gmail.com 0(13)32733753

Sao Paulo: Leandro "JUCO" jagandres_sp@hotmail.com +55 -11-91242502 /11-34614374 or thiago.maf@gmail.com www.marchadamaconha.org 14:00 hs, Parque Ibirapuera.

Sapporo: Cannabist info@cannabist.org www.cannabist.org/ +81-3-3706-6885

Sarasota: Chris cannabisliberator@yahoo.com 941-296-5809. Noon corner Fruitville Rd. & US 301. Ends 2pm.

Saskatoon: Ethan Erikliett ethane@saskmp.ca (306) 260-2952 www.saskmp.ca 4:20 PM Vinny Memorial, Kwanis Park

Seattle: DeMaris Strohm-Hughes woimly@comcast.net 206-293-2439 Noon march fr. Volunteer Park to Pioneer Sq.

South Bend: Jay 269-697-4521 jay99@hotmail.com www.anti-dotie50mags.com/btm/sbend.html Phil a1@philliplane@yahoo.com Noon to dusk, Seitz Park. March 4:20pm.

Springfield: springfieldnormi@yahoo.com or Kelly 417-291-0135

Stavanger: Piotr Gleichgewicht post@normi.no +47 22 46 39 84 http://normi.no/gmm/ Gather @ Torget 15:00 hours

Steamboat Springs: Mike Kien mikieskin2004@yahoo.com 970-819-3940. 10 AM to 2 PM Courthouse town

St. Louis: NORMI at 314-995-1395 gstrnormi@yahoo.com www.gstrnormi.org Annual March to Arch!

Syracuse: Brian Schuler brian.schuler@hotmail.com (716) 464-4694 300 folks in '08, Noon @ Oakland & Stadium.

Tampere: lasse_pihlainen@hotmail.com +35845 1368793

Tao: libervill@theproductions@gmail.com 575-779-7078

Tel Aviv: Moshe Sason moshe@ale-yarok.org 972-54-592-7760 www.ale-yarok.org.il Noon, May 2, Park Hayarkon.

Tepec: rattlesnakebreeder@yahoo.com Peyote ceremony.

Thunder Bay: Doug thoms@brownweyes@hotmail.com 807-475-7436

Tokyo: Cannabist info@cannabist.org www.cannabist.org/ +81-9-3706-6885

Torpeh: Heidi Meadows heidemeadows@cox.net 785-233-0528 10th & Gade NW Corner 4:20 PM -- potluck.

Toronto: Nieve info@cannabisweek.ca 647-400-8653 www.TorontoFreedomFestival.com www.cannabisub.com

Traverse City: Freely@tdcfest0420@hotmail.com 231-885-2993 or Rev.Steve benizeccourtynormi@yahoo.com 231-882-9721 www.minormi.org Grandview & Union 11:30am.

Tredheim: Piotr post@normi.no +47 22 46 39 84 http://normi.no/gmm/ Gather town square 15:00 hours

Tucson: mary mackenzie az4normi@cox.net (520)323-2947 az4normi.org az4normi.com Doing it 4/20 to beat the heat.

Tulsa: Jon & Rosemary legalizetulsas@gmail.com 918-809-0930

Tupelo: Anita nita420@bellsouth.net 662-963-0775

Ukiak: Vergo contactvergo@yahoo.com Iv msg 707-877-1159 Saturday, Ukiak Courthouse, Perkins & State St.

Upper Lake: Linda & Eddy Lepp 707-275-8879

Utica: Chris Belfiore cab12752@aol.com 315-794-2465

Vancouver: David davidm@tsktsk.net Tel 504-682-1172, www.cannabisculture.com/march

Vienna: David hanfwandertag@gmx.at 0043650758899 www.hanfhandertag.at www.legalisieren.at

Vigo: avermarivago@telefonica.net +34 615454107

Victoria-Gastiel: Paco@normi.amigosodemaria.com +3462888 1109 www.amigosodemaria.com May marijuana filmfest.

Warsaw: Tomasz gola@hempjobby.info gola@wskonopie.pl +48 510 964 822 www.hempjobby.info Start: 16:00, zbiezka pod Palacem Kultury i Nauki.

Washington, D.C.: John fhc@hotmail.com 202-296-5586 www.smoke-in.org F.H.C. / P.OB 5513, Wash. D.C. 20016

Wellington: wellingtonnormi.org.nz www.ornormi.org.nz

Wichita: Dobby hempjobby@hempforus.com 316-524-6001 www.hempforus.com/

Wilmington: R. J. Schimelfenig hempran@verizon.net 302-793-0716 Rodney Square, 9:30 AM.

Yakima: Miguel Lago yippieyouth@aol.com 392-4345 mycoalition.com Hugh McKay Park 11 am.

Yakima: Sylvia fatel_juggalente420@hotmail.com 509-576-4206 30-40 people in '08.

Zagreb: Toma <webinsane@gmail.com>

Zaragoza: seca@yocannabis.org 976 401506 - 687 804165

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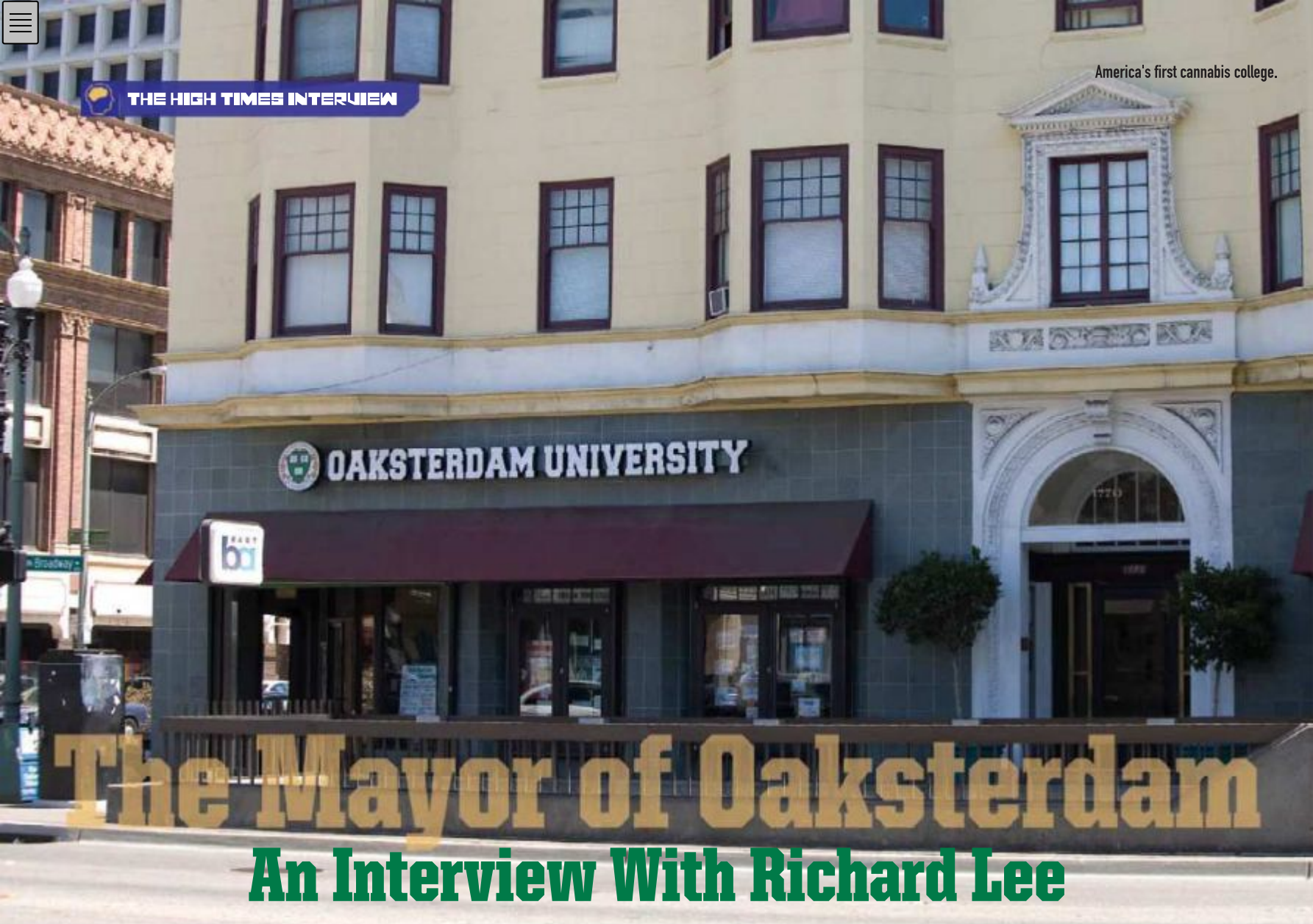
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The Mayor of Oaksterdam

An Interview With Richard Lee

By Chris Simunek

You might not find Oaksterdam on a Rand McNally map of California's Bay Area, but astute cannaphiles know it as the capital city of California's thriving medical-marijuana scene. Much of this is due to the work of Richard Lee, a marijuana activist who has literally changed the face of downtown Oakland. Back in the early '90s, before its *indica*-green makeover, the area around the once-grand Oakland Fox Theater on Telegraph Avenue was a skid row characterized by empty storefronts and criminal activity. Today, thanks in great part to the money pumped into the area by cannabis-themed businesses, it's an up-and-coming commercial center.

Most point to July 4, 1996, as the day that Oaksterdam was founded, as this is the date that activist Jeff Jones opened the Oakland Cannabis Buyers Club (OCBC). It would be several months before Proposition 215 would pass, but Jones began operating a medical-cannabis co-op after City Councilman Nate Miley pushed the council to pass medical-marijuana resolutions. Two years later, Miley and the City Council deputized the OCBC as "officers" of the City of Oakland, charged with the task of distributing medical cannabis on the city's behalf. In October 1998, the OCBC was forced to stop distributing cannabis—an injunction it appealed all the way to the US Supreme Court. The OCBC lost that final battle in 2001. Now called the Patient ID Card Center, the co-op continues to issue medical cards, and Jeff Jones has since opened another ID center in LA.

While the OCBC was mired in litigation, several other cannabis clubs sprouted in the general vicinity of what would come to be known as Oaksterdam, including the Zoo, which was opened by OCBC co-founder Jim McClellan. Richard Lee entered the picture in 1999 with the Bulldog Coffeeshop, named in homage of the Bulldog Café, Amsterdam's first coffeeshop, which was opened in 1975 by Henk De Vries. De Vries is the man credited with coining the term "coffeeshop" as a euphemism for an establishment that sells cannabis. Four years later, Lee opened Coffeeshop SR71, named after the high-flying, fast-moving stealth bomber. SR71 is now Coffeeshop Blue Sky.

In 2004, Oakland became the first city in California to issue permits to cannabis clubs, a progressive decision that came with an unfortunate political

compromise: The city's dispensaries were cut from 10 down to four—CARE, Compassionate Caregivers, SR71 and the Oakland Compassionate Healing Center—creating a flood of patients to clubs in and around the city and forcing non-accredited establishments to close their doors or flee to other towns.

In 2005, Lee and Chris Conrad began publishing the *Oaksterdam News*, a comprehensive resource covering the California medical-marijuana scene, which had a circulation of 150,000 by the time Conrad and Lee split with managing editor Jaime Galindo in 2007. Back issues of the *Oaksterdam News* can be found at oaksterdamnews.net, and Lee still publishes a section in the glossy 'zine *West Coast Cannabis*.

Today, Richard Lee stands as Oaksterdam's preeminent spokesman. His slogan "Juries cannot be prosecuted for their verdicts" pops up on stickers and posters around town; it's a call to arms suggesting that those who find themselves on the jury in a cannabis-related case vote "not guilty" no matter what the guidelines are. Lee is a busy man, running five different cannabis-related businesses within a few square blocks: the Bulldog Coffeeshop, a café at the site of his original dispensary (which no longer distributes cannabis); Coffeeshop Blue Sky, which does cater to medical patients; the Oaksterdam Gift Shop, which sells literature and paraphernalia; Oaksterdam Glassworks, a combination art gallery and glassblowing studio; and his most ambitious project yet, Oaksterdam University.

Oaksterdam U. is the sort of place that has probably been fantasized about in dorm-room bong sessions for the past 30 years: a school offering a curriculum in the fine arts of cannabis. OU's 13-week program offers classes in politics and legal issues, horticulture, cooking and "budtending," which is described as "bartending for the cannabis industry." A list of faculty and past speakers reads like a *Who's Who* of the marijuana scene, including Tommy Chong, Denis Peron, Ed Rosenthal and Jeff Jones. There's also an advanced program that includes distribution/dispensary management and glassblowing, as well as further tutelage in the business, production and legalities of cannabis. And if all that's still not enough, Lee has recently opened a branch of Oaksterdam U. in Los Angeles.

'In 1991, I was the victim of a carjacking, and the police response time was 45 minutes—which angered me more than the actual carjacking. I blamed the lack of police protection on cannabis prohibition—police wasting their time arresting people like me instead of sociopaths and predators.'



Richard Lee, the man who painted downtown Oakland green.

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THE HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW

Here's what's on the menu at Coffeeshop Blue Sky.

'I hate the idea of medical-only marijuana. Cannabis is safer than booze; it should be as legal as firewater.'

Who first coined the term "Oaks-terdam"?

The original chief financial officer of the Oakland Cannabis Buyers Cooperative, Jim McClellan. Besides being an important part of the OCBC in the late '90s, McClellan also started the Zoo—the dispensary that opened near the OCBC after it was prevented from distributing cannabis—as well the Berkeley Patients Group and the Glove Building production facility. I first remember seeing the term on a strain at the Zoo named Oaks-terdam Goo. It is a combination of "Oakland" and "Amsterdam," following "Vansterdam's" lead. We started putting it on Bulldog Coffeeshop T-shirts in 2000. Sadly, Jim passed away in 2001.

Where are you from?

I was born in Houston, TX, in 1962.

What did you do before you were involved in the movement?

I was a lighting tech for traveling stage productions.

How did you get involved in the medical-marijuana movement?

Was there anything specific that caused you to become an activist?

In 1991, I was the victim of a carjacking, and the police response time was 45 minutes—which angered me more than the actual carjacking. I blamed the lack of police protection on cannabis prohibition—police wasting their time arresting people like me instead of sociopaths and predators.

So we opened Legal Marijuana/The Hemp Store in Texas in 1992 to jump-start the hemp industry. Then I heard about Dennis Peron and the San Francisco

Cannabis Buyers Club and decided to move to the Bay Area. I met Jeff Jones in 1995 and moved to Oakland in 1997, operating a cannabis-production facility supplying the OCBC (now the PIDC—Patient ID Card Center).

I understand you're a patient yourself. What do you use medical marijuana for?

I consider myself an adult cannabis consumer. I hate the idea of medical-only marijuana. Cannabis is safer than booze; it should be as legal as firewater.

Why is it that in California, some medical clubs get busted by the Feds and some don't?

One reason is local politics and policing: The Feds count on local support to raid dispensaries. Number two is dispensary operators not being politically active, not being committed to improving their community, just making a lot of money and buying a lot of toys. Number three—luck. It doesn't matter how good a soldier you are when a mortar shell hits your foxhole.

What is "Measure Z"?

Oakland passed Measure Z in 2004 with 65 percent of the vote, creating the Oakland Cannabis Revenue and Regulation Ordinance. The ordinance mandates that Oakland tax and regulate cannabis for adults as soon as possible under state law, and made private cannabis sales, cultivation, and possession the lowest law enforcement priority. It also created an oversight committee, which recently drafted rules and permit fees for Measure Z clubs to operate, similar to how the medical-marijuana clubs op-

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THE HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW



This medicine tastes pretty good.

erate. There are currently several small Measure Z clubs in Oakland paying taxes, creating jobs and improving their neighborhoods.

How are cannabis clubs regulated in Oakland?

In 2004, the Oakland City Council began regulating medical-marijuana outlets; in a political compromise, the number of clubs was reduced to four. The city charges \$25,000 in annual permit fees and requires the dispensaries to pay taxes and follow laws like any other business.

Where did you get the idea for Oaksterdam University?

I got the idea from the Cannabis College in Amsterdam. We see a trade school as part of legitimizing the cannabis industry. Many of our students want to help end cannabis prohibition but don't know how; OU has been great for them and those looking for employment at a dispensary. We have had over 700 students this year.

Last summer, we moved to a larger facility in Oakland to accommodate larger classes, and last spring, we started holding classes in Los Angeles at the PIDC. We have added a glassblowing department and continuing-legal-education seminars for lawyers. We have started a speaker series featuring faculty members, such as Dennis Peron, Dale Gieringer, Chris Conrad and Mikki Norris. Online courses and classes on DVD will hopefully be available soon, as well as seminars in Michigan and other states.

What happened to the *Oaksterdam News*?

The *Oaksterdam News* ceased publishing in May of 2007 due to conflicts between the three owners—Chris Conrad, Jaime Galindo and myself. Galindo did a lot of good work distributing the *ON* and selling ads; however, he became impossible for Chris and myself to work with. Chris has archived the two years of issues at oaksterdamnews.net and is currently publishing the *West Coast Leaf*, while Jaime published one issue of *Oaksterdam Media*. It is unfortunate that the *ON* folded at its peak, distributing over 100,000 copies per issue. We have started *Oaksterdam Magazine*, currently a minimag inside *West Coast Cannabis*, as a tourist guide for O'dam.

What would you say to a person who wanted to open a cannabis dispensary in California?

They should be politically active, especially locally. I started 17 years ago and have gradually grown my businesses, politics and legal liabilities. Start small and find good people to work with. It has been an honor to lead so many brave soldiers, and they are the reason for our success. Donate to local politicians and charities as well as reform organizations such as SAFER, MPP, NORML and Law Enforcement Against Prohibition. Until federal prohibition ends, this is a political business that requires courage, dedication and skill in combat. Good luck and Godspeed. ✨

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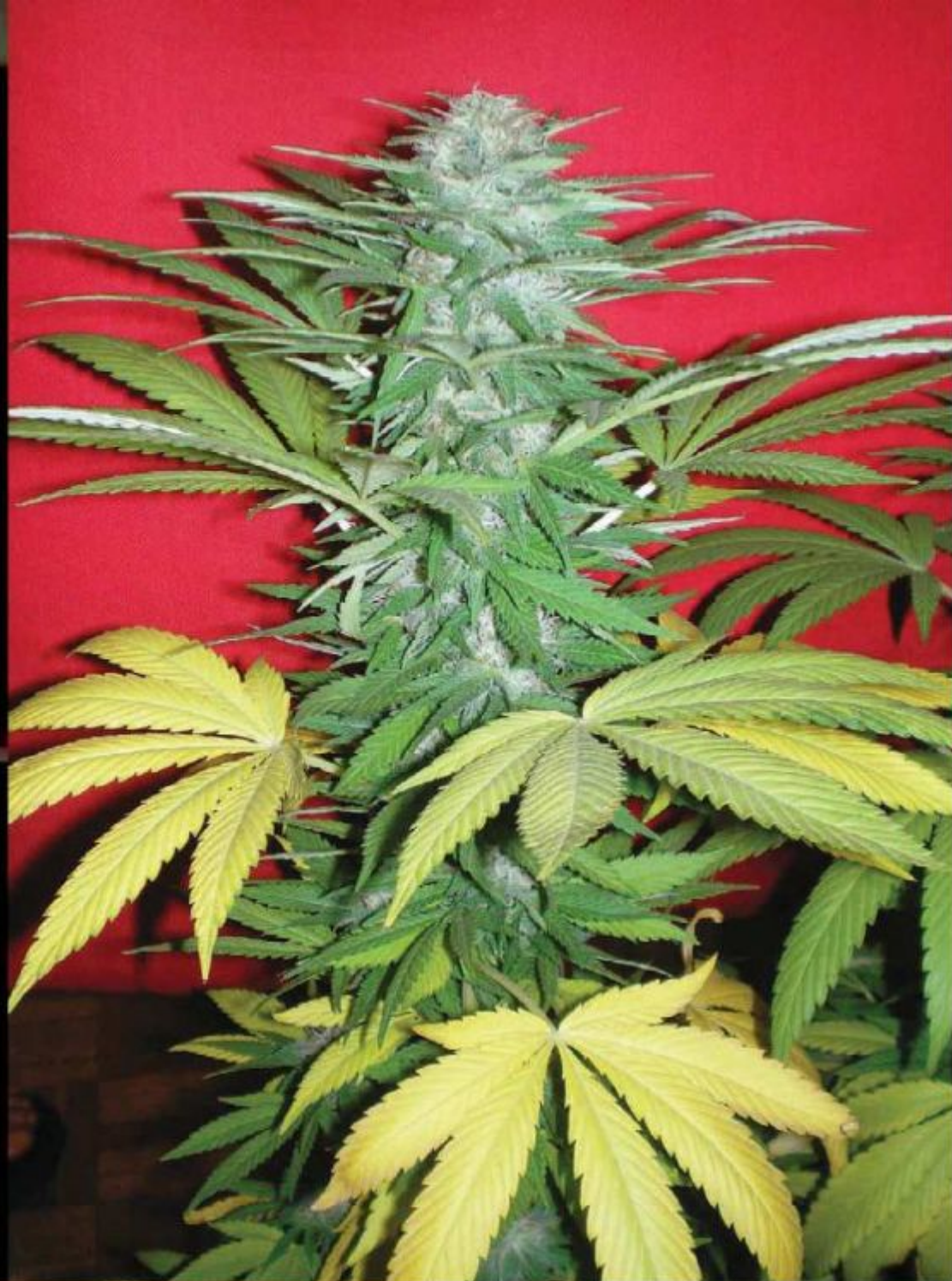
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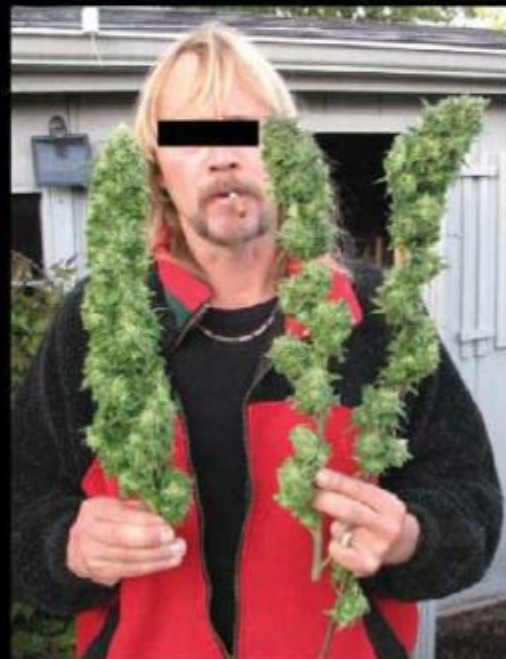


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Picture from tour in Afghanistan.—Silas

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BY NICO ESCONDIDO

EVERYTHING MEDICAL & MORE

Welcome to the second installment of our new mini-section devoted wholly to medicinal strains, uses, news, developments, activism, politics ... anything and everything, really, that is medically related to marijuana. This is your new *Cannabis Clinic!*

BONA-FRIED!

The How-To's and Why-Not's of Getting Your Own Medical Card

If you're a resident of California or any other medical-marijuana state, then it's your right as a citizen to receive your medical card. A medical card is a legal document recognized statewide that proves you were examined by a licensed physician and given a recommendation to use medical marijuana. The process of getting your medical card is actually an easy one: All you need is to be over the age of 18, have a valid government-issued ID and be able to pay the doctor's fee.

Checking your local telephone book, state government website or the medical directory of *HIGH TIMES* can point you in the direction of an accredited medical-marijuana doctor. It's important that you find the right one. For this reason, personal references from people you know are always a great help; you'll be able to make sure that you're getting a knowledgeable doctor who cares about this issue rather than one who just wants to take your money. In states like California or Washington, finding the right medical-marijuana doctor is easy enough; in smaller states—especially out on the Eastern Seaboard—it requires a bit more diligence, but is still doable.

Upon your first visit, you'll be asked to fill out a few pages of paperwork relating to your health and past ailments, your reasons for wanting a medical card and all relevant personal info. After the paperwork is completed, you'll meet with the doctor, who will do some physical assessments of your overall state of health, checking blood pressure, eyes, reflexes and heart rate, among other things. Her or she will also ask questions about your medical history and your past experiences with mari-



East coast Sour Diesel grown in an ebb-n-flow system at week 7.

MEDICINAL STRAIN OF THE MONTH: SOUR DIESEL

This month's featured strain had to be the legendary Sour Diesel. With its not-so-balanced, *sativa*-dominant genetics, we know some people will find it a surprising choice. But for sure, it's tops on many patients' lists because of its uplifting yet powerful high.

Hovering around a whopping 20% THC content, but with an average CBD level of 1%, Sour Diesel has strong euphoric effects on both the mind and the body. Its tangy, citrusy smell closely resembles a sweet-grapefruit/sour-lemon combination, while its flavor—well, if you've ever smoked it, you already know there isn't much out there that can compare.

The shrouded history of this iconic strain is still being debated in session circles around the globe, with most accounts calling it a hybrid of sorts, usually between varying lineages. Mass Super Skunk, various Chem strains, Mexican *Sativa* and Northern Lights are just a few that have been named as proud parents of the Diesel. However, the original East Coast Sour Diesel still grows strong today in the northeastern US, its secrets guarded by a few dedicated connoisseurs.

When the Diesel is available, it dominates the marketplace and commands top dollar. Pronounced calyx formations within the bud structure and random dark-green leaves are signatures of the strain—along with its candy flavor (but we already mentioned that). Recommended medical uses include glaucoma, mild depression and anxiety.

juana. It is important to note that there are some health issues that raise red flags with doctors, such as certain mental illnesses, alcoholism or other drug addictions.

Be sure to let your doctor know your true medical history. Common ailments that may necessitate a prescription for medical marijuana include insomnia, muscle spasms, chronic headaches and obsessive-compulsive disorders. Additionally, if you suffer from an illness that requires you to take a medicine with unwanted side effects, such as loss

of appetite or nausea, then medical marijuana may also be warranted. After the consultation, if the doctor decides that you're likely to benefit from the medicinal use of marijuana, he or she will sign the forms approving you as a patient. Once you're issued a medical card, it's valid for one year, which means you'll have to visit the doctor again the following year to get the card renewed.

With a medical card, you're also eligible to grow your own marijuana for personal use, although the number of plants you're allowed can vary:

In California, for example, up to 10 plants is the limit in some parts of the state, while one can grow up to 99 plants in others. Of course, it's important to remember that this is only state law—federal law still does not recognize or permit the use of medical marijuana.

In short, if you smoke pot often, then it just might be the medicine for you. Try to notice how you feel when you're high and when you're not; think about why and when you smoke pot most often—you may be self-medicating without even knowing it. If this is the case, you're already a patient of the herb. So if you live in California or any other of the 12 medical-marijuana states in the US, it's your right as a citizen and an adult to have a medical-marijuana card. It's easy, it's important, and it's legal. Remember, you can't get into any trouble by having a medical card, so don't be afraid to go out and get one!—Lady G.

Go to

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/MMP/Pages/default.aspx> to learn more about California's medical-marijuana program

CC News Corner: Cali Update

California's highest court has recently upheld the issuance of state medical-marijuana identification cards by refusing to consider a legal challenge to the law.

The California Supreme Court declined without comment to hear a challenge by two cities and one county to the state's medical-marijuana law and the issuance of med-pot ID cards. These lawsuits—filed by San Diego, San Bernardino and Merced County in 2006—were previously tossed out by two lower courts.

The state Supreme Court's refusal ends the latest challenge to medical marijuana in California, effectively cementing the medical-marijuana law in place and leaving only one avenue for federal agencies to challenge its legality: an attempt to overturn states' rights in this matter via the US Supreme Court.

At the same time, however, the US Supreme Court has allowed federal authorities to prosecute medical-marijuana patients and their suppliers under federal anti-drug laws, and to shut down dispensaries in California and the 11 other states with laws similar to Prop. 215. But the court has not prohibited the states from deciding which drugs to ban or sanction under their own laws, nor are federal authorities known to target individual patients or doctors unless they operate on commercial levels. 🌿

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BUDDER YOUR BREAD

pudding, pot and bread—what could be better?



This recipe is a great way to use day-old bread.

What interesting times we live in. By the time this issue hits the stands, our economy could resemble that of Argentina circa 2001, and there may be folks dangling by their silk neckties and golden parachutes from the lampposts on Wall Street ... or not. We may have elected our first biracial president, proving to the world that we're not just a bunch of ignorant rednecks, that we judge people based on their abilities rather than their melanin levels ... or not. Perhaps we'll have empowered our first lipstick-wearing psychotic-pit-bull vice president instead. (Not counting Dick Cheney, of course. He reminds me so much of J. Edgar Hoover that I wouldn't be surprised if they shared those predilections—repression does funny things to Republicans.)

Lord only knows how many new enemies we'll have made by then if McCain and Palin are elected, but it's a pretty safe bet we'll have launched the first political volley in the Cold War Redux the minute the vote count tilts to the right. Hopefully, we won't piss in everyone's diplomatic Wheaties that way—but at least the Russians will nuke Alaska first, since Putin can see Wasilla from his house ... or something to that effect.

Yes, things are uncertain on the brink of our collective precipice. And by the way: Bush just deployed an Army brigade stateside to quell the Posse Comitatus Act and some sort of civil unrest that I didn't even know we were having. Are we having civil unrest? Gosh, I would hate to miss that! Revolutions are, like, totally hot, but having the National Guard fire on American citizens is just so 1970. These days, getting mowed down by the regular Army is where it's at—just ask the Iraqis.

Sketchy stuff, these pre-election surprises, although I'm not inclined to get my panties in a bunch over the current Wall Street hysterics. I doubt the entire economy will fail just because some fat cats played games with credit-default swaps—but if it does, we'll survive, just as our grandparents and great-grandparents survived the 1930s. My Granny told me all about the Great Depression when I was little, and most of the stories involved eating cauliflower and a pet goat. (By which I mean she owned the goat—she didn't eat it—so it couldn't have been that bad.) Plus, I'm already poor compared to the people at Goldman Sachs, so I doubt that much will change for me personally. I'll consolidate my frequent errands, swear off those silly dreams of vacations, retirement and Vanguard mutual funds, and cut back on my intake of fancy cheese—unless I get a goat, in which case I'll make my own fancy cheese. I hope it doesn't come to that, because I'm a little squeamish about fiddling with goat teats, but just in case it all goes to hell in a dogsled, this month's recipe is a Depression-era penny-stretcher that's super easy to make, or to adapt to your taste and the ingredients on hand.—Ashley Boudreaux

BUD & BREAD PUDDING

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 oz commercial-grade cannabis (or 1/8-oz kind bud) | 1 cup evaporated milk (if you don't have it, just use 3 cups of milk) |
| 6 to 8 cups cubed stale bread (any bread except herbed bread, rye bread, etc.) | 3 large eggs |
| 5 tbsp butter | 1 tsp ground cinnamon |
| 1 cup white sugar | 2 tsp vanilla extract |
| 1 cup brown sugar | 1/2 cup nuts |
| 2 cups milk | 1/2 cup raisins |

Directions: Combine the cannabis and butter in a double boiler and cook over low heat for 45 minutes. Strain the vegetation out of the butter, then add all the ingredients except the bread cubes and whisk the hell out of it. Grease a baking pan, distribute bread cubes evenly, and then pour the melted butter/sugar mixture over them. Stir, and let the pan sit in the fridge for one hour so the bread can soak. Then pop it into the oven at 300°F until the mixture is set (it should take about 60 to 70 minutes, depending on your elevation), or until a toothpick can be pulled out clean from the center. Dust with confectioner's sugar and serve. Stones 6. 🌿

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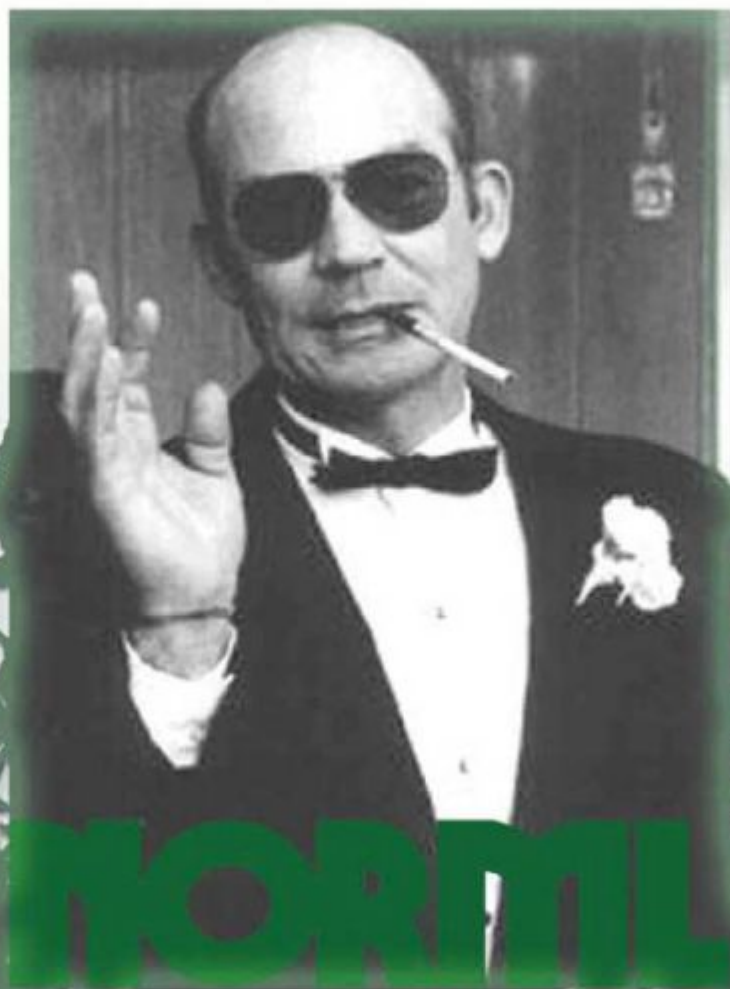
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20 MILLION—AND COUNTING

One of us is arrested every eight seconds.

Since the early '90s, the total number of Americans busted annually for pot has nearly tripled. In 1991, police arrested a modern low of 288,000 people for minor marijuana violations in the United States. But by 2006 (the last year for which data are available), a record 830,000 people were arrested. An estimated 90 percent were charged with minor possession—not trafficking,



Pot busts cost taxpayer \$7 billion annually.

cultivation or sale. This spike in arrests occurred even as federal statistics indicate that adult marijuana use has remained fairly stable over the past decade.

Yet despite this massive increase in arrests, the mainstream media and Congress continue to ignore the plight of millions of Americans who suffer significant sanctions and hardships because of pot-related run-ins with the law. These penalties include probation and mandatory drug testing, loss of employment, loss of child custody, removal from subsidized housing, asset forfeiture, loss of student aid, loss of voting privileges, loss of adoption rights, and loss of certain federal welfare benefits such as food stamps.

Many Americans serve prison time for pot. Nearly 13 percent of state inmates and 12.4 percent of federal inmates are incarcerated for marijuana-related drug violations, according to a 2006 Bureau of Justice Statistics report. In human terms, this means that some 34,000 state inmates and an estimated 11,000 federal inmates are serving time behind bars for violating marijuana laws. In fiscal terms, this means US taxpayers are spending more than \$1 billion annually to imprison pot offenders.

The front-end criminal justice costs—such as the number of hours a police officer must put in to arrest and process the average pot offender—are far greater.

Some researchers, including economist Jeffery Miron at Harvard University, have estimated these costs at upward of \$7 billion a year.

But the financial and social costs tell only part of the story. Up to 70 percent of all individuals in drug treatment for pot are placed there by the criminal justice system, according to statistics published by the US Substance Abuse

and Mental Health Services Administration. In other words, these individuals were ordered by a judge (or a drug court) to attend “rehab” in lieu of jail, or as a requirement of their probation. Of those enrolled in treatment, federal statistics indicate that more than one in three hadn’t even used marijuana in the 30 days prior to their admission.

Equally troubling, yet seldom publicly discussed, is the reality that marijuana enforcement disproportionately affects citizens by age. According to data compiled by the FBI, 74 percent of all Americans busted for pot are under 30, and one out of four is 18 or younger.

Sadly, a generation—possibly two—believes that the police are an instrument of their oppression rather than their protection. These people suffer the most under current anti-pot laws, yet they lack the financial means and the political capital to influence politicians to challenge these laws. They also lack the money to adequately fund the drug-law reform movement at a level necessary to represent and protect their interests. As a result, marijuana arrests continue to climb unabated. But few in the mainstream press—and even fewer lawmakers—feel compelled to address this continuing tragedy.—Paul Armentano, Deputy Director of NORML

Visit norml.org or call (888) 67-NORML

Ask Dr. Mitch



Dr. Mitch,
My girlfriend says the first ads for hemp paper claimed that it could raise the dead. What's the story?

J. Hearst

Hi J.,
Around the year 100, according to a popular but apocryphal story, a Chinese bureaucrat named Ts'ai Lun staged his own death, then had people burn paper to bring him “back to life.” In reality, Ts'ai Lun (more commonly spelled Cai Lun these days) is credited with the invention of paper, which included hemp in the recipe. Meanwhile, the tradition of burning paper at funerals—including “spirit money”—is observed throughout many parts of Asia.

I'm getting conflicting stories about marijuana and spirituality. Any connection?

Wayne S.

Hi Wayne,
Marijuana and spirituality have to be two of the world's most controversial topics. Are they linked? It depends, of course, on what you mean by “spirituality.” Some define it by how often you pray, go to church or think about your deity. In contrast, other definitions focus on freeing your mind, getting in touch with your feelings and appreciating nature. No surprise that marijuana users are high on the latter kind of spirituality.

I'm having an argument at my shop about pot and “amotivational syndrome.” Can you help me out?

Thomas Hearty

Hi Thomas,
Adult cannabis users are no different from other folks in terms of hours worked, wages earned or job turnover. One study showed that men who smoke pot earned more money than their non-smoking brethren. Also, college-student users and non-users have comparable grades and extracurricular activities. Two studies even showed that users had higher grades than their non-using pals—not that I'm recommending the plant as a study aid. Hope this helps!

Dr. Mitch Earleywine, Ph.D., is an associate professor of psychology at SUNY Albany. He is the author of *Understanding Marijuana and The Parents' Guide to Marijuana*. Got a question for Dr. Mitch? Email him at 420research@gmail.com.

FREEDOM FIGHTER

BLOG STAR Pete Guither leads a war against propaganda.

As the art of blogging evolves, few have utilized this tool as effectively for anti-marijuana-prohibition advocacy as Pete Guither. Check him out at DrugWar-Rant.com and enter the Drug War Rant community. Both of these outlets were the result of Pete's anger at the continued prohibition of cannabis. What started out as research and writing primarily for his own edification has blossomed into a powerful online forum and community of drug-policy reformers that provides a valuable service by supplying activists with news and information on the latest scientific, legal and political developments.

Pete is motivated by the belief that legalizing and regulating marijuana cultivation, distribution and possession for recreational purposes is crucial. “I want to take the black market out of the equation,” he says. “The only way to do that is with full legalization and not a halfway solution. The path to get there requires that people stop being afraid to talk about marijuana and the Drug War.”

The good news is that more and more people are speaking out. “The blogs and the traditional reform organizations like NORML, and the newer groups like Law Enforcement Against Prohibition and Students for Sensible Drug Policy, are developing a network of reformers from all walks of life armed with the facts,” Pete says. “But we're still facing a tough battle—decades of propaganda. We have to get the facts, we have to speak out, and we have to keep doing it!”

Thanks to Pete Guither, the anti-prohibition community has gained a powerful new voice. Long may he continue to share his insight, his knowledge and the occasional rant.—Carlos Castillo, NORML Outreach Coordinator



Pete Guither

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Well hidden plants tucked away in the woods keep cops and rippers at bay.

CANADIAN SEED CROPS

Deep in the untamed wilderness of Vancouver Island, expert breeders are busy with massive gardens of pot plants bursting with seeds that will soon be spread all over the world. **Story & photos by Danny Danko**

Over the River and Through the Woods

Getting to the outdoor grow spots of Canada is not an easy task. You can either jump out of a car at the side of a road and hike up steep, rocky inclines, or take a bumpy ride down deserted logging trails and trudge through thick woods for miles. Consider also that you're in a rain forest and, with each step, your foot can land on slugs the size of ripe bananas or drop through several feet of old-growth branches into swampy holes. Growers here take some serious pains to avoid cops and rippers and get their harvests to the people.

And then there are the seed breeders, who plant their chosen males alongside their selected females to grow whole gardens full of buds swollen with seeds for a hungry worldwide market. These outdoor cultivation experiments are capable of producing millions of seeds that will be harvested, sifted, sorted and shipped around the globe, allowing cultivators far and wide to produce perfect pot while also ensuring the future survival of quality genetic material.

Upon my arrival on beautiful Vancouver Island, Matt from BC Bud Depot picked me up and escorted me to several of his secret outdoor seeding facilities. The popularity of his Purps strain (a HIGH TIMES Top 10 Strain of the Year for 2007) made it necessary to reproduce those particular seeds on a massive scale. Specially chosen male and female Purps plants were grown exclusively in these gardens and allowed to reach full maturity—co-existing and doing their thing naturally.

It's interesting to see male cannabis plants fully grown out and even well past their prime. They are a rare sight—and quite beautiful in their own right. In almost all of the gardens I've seen, the males are eradicated as soon as they're spotted, and even breeders tend to keep their prized males around only until they've outlived their usefulness, whereupon they take cuttings of them for future projects. It felt refreshing to glimpse a world where cannabis is allowed to finish its life cycle completely as in the wild.

Many of the males in Matt's gardens towered over their female counterparts—Mother Nature's way of ensuring that their pollen reaches the growing female flowers. Some of them were almost 20 feet tall! The males have much longer spaces between their internodes, and their flowers form into what look like tiny bunches of bananas. Many had turned purple, thanks either to genetics or the cold Canadian fall winds.



Getting It On

Normally, in regular pot gardens, we try to grow exclusively female plants with no seeds. This is known as sinsemilla (“without seeds” in Spanish). In order to grow without seeds, males must never be allowed to pollinate females and are usually killed upon showing their sex. The gardens I visited, however, are for the purpose of creating seeds, and the breeders therefore encourage the males and females to live out and fulfill their natural life cycle.

Male and female cannabis plants in the wild will grow as annuals, with males pollinating the females during their flowering period and those pollinated females dropping the seeds that will make up the next generation of wild cannabis. Seed breeders seek to refine this process by utilizing only males and females they’ve specifically chosen to improve the genetics of the future offspring, and also by selecting the best specimens from that process for future production.

To aid in the pollination process, Matt goes through and shakes the males vigorously several times during the flowering season to thoroughly saturate the females and fill them with thousands of plump seeds. Each individual grain of pollen is capable of producing a seed, as long as it lands on a viable female bud—so the more pollen that gets dropped, the more seeds will eventually be harvested from the buds. Even late into the season, the males were still dropping pollen in their never-ending efforts to impregnate their female neighbors.

When the females are ready and the seeds inside them have reached maturity, they’re ready to be taken down. Once harvested, the seed-laden buds are dried out. Hanging and curing aren’t necessary in this case, so the dried buds are simply broken apart and sifted, with seeds popping out all over the place. The seeds are then gathered and labeled for testing. A selection of seeds is planted to test for germination and viability, and then grown out to ensure genetic stability and proper flavor and potency.

After testing, the seeds are ready for the marketplace—and the orders have been rolling in. Matt tells me that BC Bud Depot has received orders from places as varied as Saudi Arabia and Japan. Lately, Eastern Europe and Africa have emerged as cannabis-growing places as well. He insists that strains bred to endure the harsh Canadian growing season will thrive almost anywhere else.

It’s interesting to see male cannabis plants fully grown out and even well past their prime.



This female flower will soon begin swelling with seeds of Purps.



Male plants surround this female ensuring her pollination.



A bee buzzes over this male flower.



This female is hiding amongst cover crops including tomatoes and corn.

Thousands of seeds ready to send around the world.



Purps nuggets are dark colored and candy flavored.



Why Purps?

The Purps was a gift to Matt years ago from a Californian visitor to the Cannabis Cup, and it has now become highly regarded in Canada. BC Bud Depot has been backcrossing this strain for several generations, and Matt feels that it only improves with each new cycle. (Backcrossing involves crossing a strain with a parent or genetically similar hybrid in order to get a closer representation of the parent.)

Purps tastes, smells and looks like candy, with a sweet and pungent “grape” flavor and plenty of potency. Its unique coloring and interesting tartness on the palate make the Purps a highly sought-after strain, and her seeds fly off the BC Bud Depot shelves.

Purps is also easy to grow. She’s a great *sativa/indica* hybrid with a short flowering time indoors (seven to eight weeks) and an innate ability to withstand the trials and tribulations of growing outside, maturing outdoors in mid-October, just in time to avoid frosts in the northern US and Canada. These qualities make the Purps wonderful for growing almost anywhere; in tropical climates, expect huge yields and long, filled-out colas galore. Indoors, her branches will find every available space and truly hog the light for huge harvests of pretty pot.

The Purps will also naturally turn darker colors of purple the longer you leave her out, providing a nice bit of bag appeal to an already stellar sensi strain. The high is quite soaring and uplifting—a great daytime smoke for walks in the park or hikes in the woods. Joints taste great all the way to the end, and bong hits are thick and flavorful, leaving a pungent, sweet aroma in the room not unlike a rare incense.

The gardens that I witnessed in Canada will produce literally a million seeds or more—a staggering number of Purps plants that will be spread all over the world in the future, growing out in gardens near and far, indoors and out, and anywhere else a plant can grow. Who knows? Perhaps you’ll be growing a few of them out this spring. ↓

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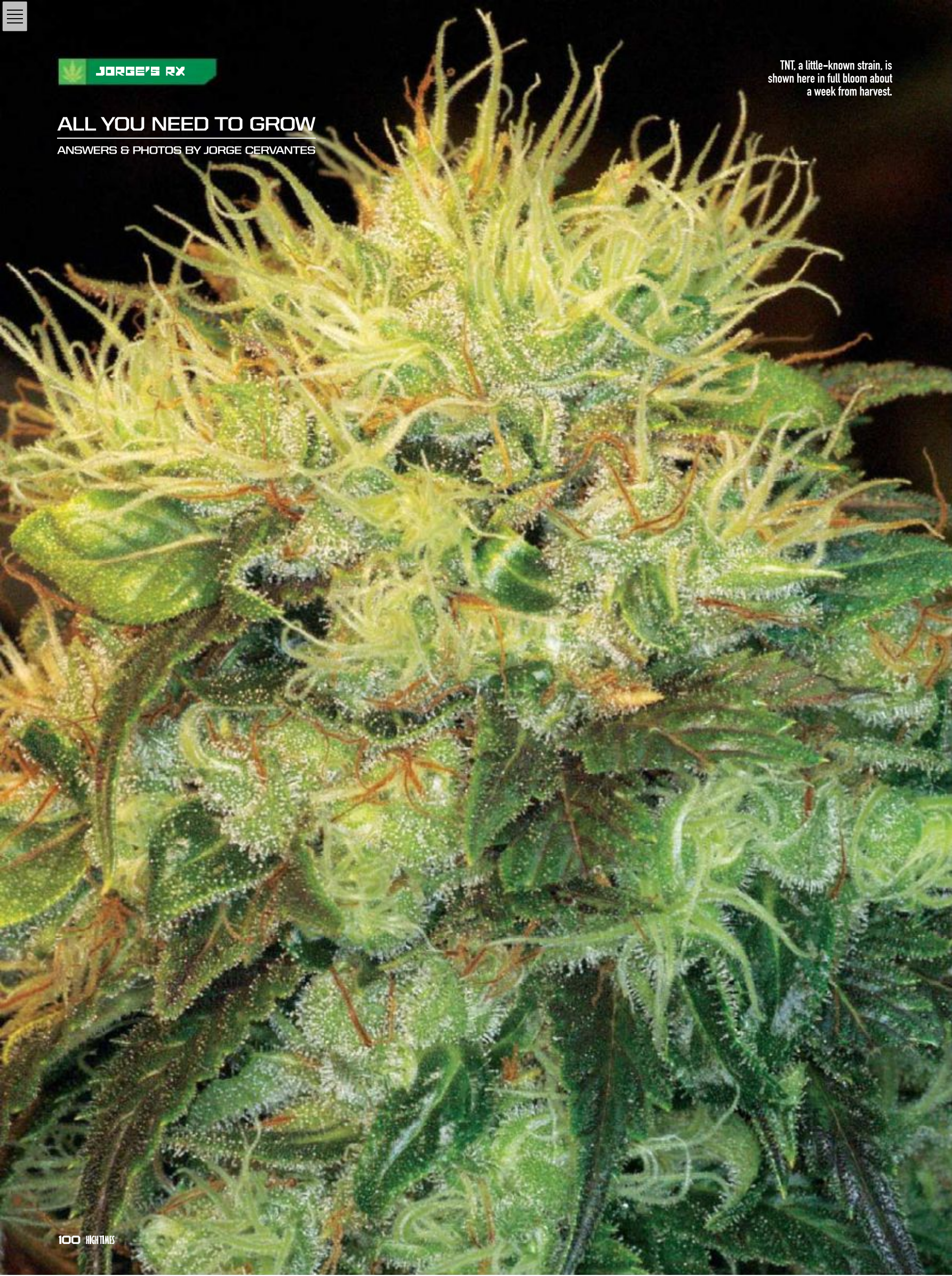


JORGE'S RX

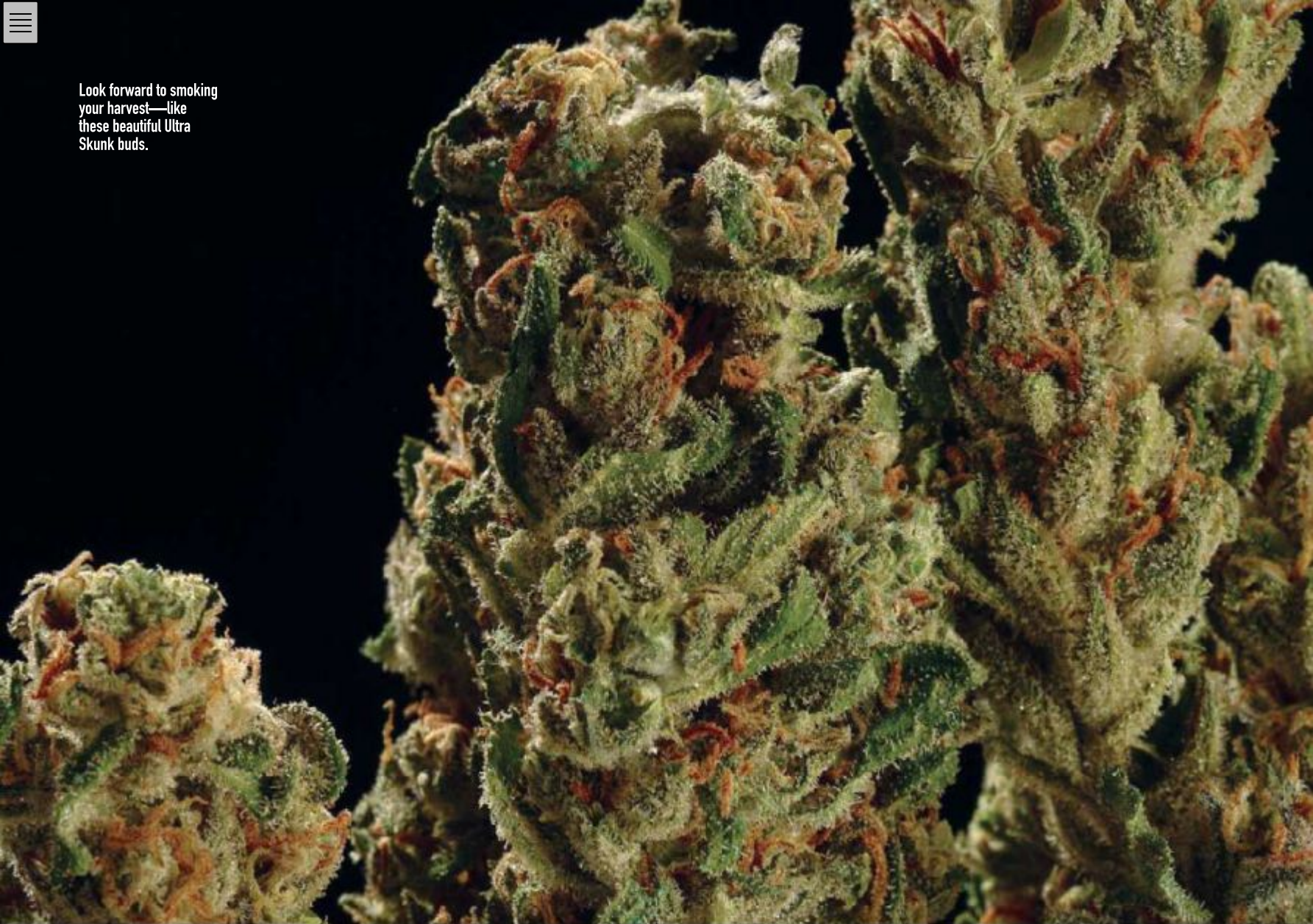
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SEEDS AND SOIL

Hey there, Jorge, how you doin'? I need to know how long it takes a germinated seed to grow after being planted and then moved to a different pot? And should I use the same soil or something better? Thanks!

*Lazy
Via Internet*

Dear Lazy,

Once moisture and heat come into contact with a seed, it will split open and germinate, generally within 24 to 72 hours. (Strong, healthy seeds tend to germinate more quickly.) Upon germination, a small white rootlet grows out of the seed. Once the rootlet is 0.25 to 0.5 inches long, it's ready to plant in fine potting soil. Use a 4-inch pot filled with soil to hold the germinated seed; plant the tip of the rootlet so that it's pointing down. In one to four days, the seed will sprout through the soil. The seedling will be ready to transplant in two to four weeks, depending upon its size. When it's ready to transplant, the seedling roots should be creeping out the drainage holes in the bottom of the 4-inch pot. As a rule, seedling soil is a little finer than the soil used later, because it holds moisture better and gives the new seedling a stable environment.

Next, transplant the seedling into a 3-gallon container full of similar soil; however, this soil should be a little faster-draining. I like to add 10% to 20% perlite to the soil to increase drainage. The perlite will also help trap air (oxygen) in the

soil; this oxygen is necessary for nutrient uptake. Always buy the best soil you can afford, and use fast-draining soil designed for annual flowers and vegetables.

LANKY SEEDLINGS

Why are my seedlings so tall and lanky? I started the seeds in wet paper towels and planted them in small pots, and then they just shot up. How can I fix them so they're shorter and stronger? I'm planning to raise them hydroponically (hopefully—I've never tried this before). I really enjoy your columns and just ordered one of your books.

*JuneBug
Via Internet*

Dear June,

Seedlings, especially when grown indoors, often have long, lanky stems and small leaves during the first month of growth. The stems are bred to push up through soil, but when the soil offers little resistance, they grow long and lanky instead. The problem is that long, lanky stems tend to be weak and need to bulk up with some fibrous cellulose to be able to support the weight of the plant.

Keep a fan blowing on your seedlings so that the little plants are stirring a bit in the wind (but don't give them *too* much air or they'll dry out quickly). This will help them gain some cellulose in the stem. Once the seedlings are about a month old, they should have developed two sets of true leaves with the classic serrated edges

characteristic of marijuana. The stems will still be long and lanky, but they should also be getting a little thicker and sturdier. If you started the seedlings in rockwool blocks, they'll be easy to move into a hydroponic system. I suggest that you move the rockwool cubes into a hydroponic garden filled with Hydroton clay pellets or something similar. When transplanting, bury the seedlings in the clay pellets so that there's an inch of stem below the leaves. The buried stem will grow roots within a month, and the plant will grow strong and healthy.

VENTILATING TWO ROOMS

I bought your "grower's bible" (*Marijuana Horticulture*), and it's been very helpful. I have a problem, though: I have a vegetative room and a flowering room with a 6-inch in-line vent fan and a carbon filter. To separate the rooms, I was going to use a tarp with a zipper. How can I vent both areas?

*Steve G.
Via Internet*

Dear Steve,

Place the in-line exhaust fan and carbon filter in the flowering room; this is where the odor comes from. Set up the fan near the ceiling so that it vents off hot air in the room; then put a circulation fan in the vegetative room. To vent the two areas, make a hole in the room divider on or near the floor. Cut the hole in such a way that the light from the vegetative room doesn't shine onto plants in the flowering room; this is easy to ac-

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JORGE'S RX

LED grow lights are the wave of the future, but they'll cost much less in the next few years.

comply with the help of curved ducting. When the circulation fan is on, there should be air moving from the vegetative room into the flowering room via the hole or vent. Vegetative plants like a little higher humidity (60%) than flowering plants (50%) and generally don't pose an odor problem, so the ventilation should be sufficient. If you need more ventilation, place a small vent fan in the ducting to expedite air movement. You can open both rooms when the flowering light is on for added ventilation.

SOIL AND SOILLESS

What do you consider the best soil mixture for growing indoors?

Greg
 Via Internet

Dear Greg,
 Personally, I like soilless mix rather than soil. Soilless mix is perfect for growing indoors because it drains quickly and it's easy to control the nutrient content. My favorite soilless mixes are Sunshine Mix and ProMix. Both are consistent and excellent products, and both come with enough trace elements impregnated in the mix to grow most plants for the first month.

Potting soil is difficult to keep consistent in different geographic areas: Transportation costs require that potting soils be made from local ingredients, and these ingredients vary from place to place. The best advice I can give you is to buy the best fast-draining premium mix you can find, or else mix your own from quality ingredients. Here are a couple of my favorite soil mixes (note that they're all very easy to make. You can

also add your own organic nutrients to the mix, but I prefer to add all the nutrients with a nutrient solution so that it's easier to control. Also, when using homemade compost, make sure it's completely composted and not full of bad stuff):

- 1/2 compost
- 1/2 soilless mix

- 1/3 compost
- 1/3 soilless mix
- 1/3 coco coir

- 1/3 compost
- 1/3 soilless mix
- 1/6 worm castings
- 1/6 perlite

LED LIGHTS

I've been seriously considering getting an LED grow light. The two I'm looking at are the Procyon 100 and the Lightblaze 400. I was hoping you could help me decide. Your advice would be greatly appreciated.

Jerry
 Via Internet

Dear Jerry,
 LED lights will be coming down in price in the next few years. Currently, they cost around \$600 for approximately 100 watts of LED light, which is enough to illuminate a 40-by-40-inch square room. They don't produce as much intense light as a 400-watt high-pressure sodium (HPS) or metal halide (MH) lamp, but they do provide enough light to produce a respectable crop. I'm still studying the yields and bud quality.

If you compare the economics of a 100-watt LED and a 400-watt HPS, you'll find that it costs about \$15 a month to run a 400-watt HPS at \$0.10 per kilowatt hour (0.4 x \$0.10 = \$0.04 x 12 hours x 30 days = \$14.40 per month to run), and 75% less to run a 100-watt LED (\$14.40 x 0.25 = \$3.60; \$14.40 - \$3.60 = \$10.80 savings per month when using an LED). If a 400-watt HPS system costs \$300 and the 100-watt LED costs \$600, it would take 28 months to make up the difference. Hmm

Electrical use, heat and space could also color your decision. If any of these three are a prime concern, you should use an LED lamp: They put out very little heat and run very cool, so they can be placed close to your plants (12 to 24 inches away). But the buds I've seen grown under LED lights weren't as plump and tight as those grown under HPS light. It might make a difference as to which strains were being grown under the LED. My guess is that *indica*-dominant plants with more open buds tend to do best under LEDs, but I'm afraid my experience thus far has been limited.

As for the type of LED fixture to purchase, I'd rather not make a direct recommendation at this point, but I can tell you what to look for: 1) Each LED lightbulb should be rated at 1 watt or better; 2) the fixture should have a vent fan built in; 3) the combination of bulbs should be such that the light spectrum generated promotes growth; and 4) the fixture should be compact and easy to hang. For more information, check out the ads for LED lamps in HIGH TIMES!

APARTMENT GROWING

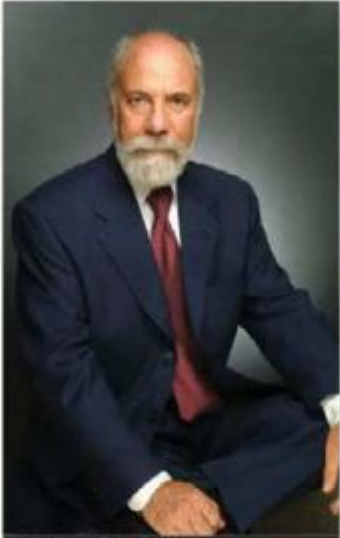
I am a California medical-cannabis patient and will soon be starting my own garden (for medical purposes, of course!). I bought a 4' x 4' x 7' grow closet. Would a 600-watt HPS light be a good choice? (I want to use it to grow the seeds I collect from the plants.) An exhaust fan, thermostat and humidistat are a must, but do I also need an intake fan? I live in an apartment and will use air ionizers to stop the odor; I'll place one in the grow room and another near the window. Do you think I'll need a charcoal filter?

RVR
California

Dear RVR,
You always know what you're taking when you grow your own medicine! Buying a grow closet is a good idea: There are many different brands on the market, and they're very easy to set up and start growing. A 600-watt lamp is an excellent choice for a 40-square-inch room; it will provide plenty of light to grow big, fat medicinal buds. But one of the by-products of a 600-watt lamp is heat, and this heat must be moved out of the grow area so that the ambient temperature stays around 75°F. (It can drop to 65°F at night with little change in growth.) Keeping adequate air flowing through the closet should be simple enough—just use the intake vents near the bottom of the unit. Air is pulled in via these vents and evacuated via the exhaust fan above.

Aside from keeping the temperature near 75°F and the humidity at about 50%, your main concerns will be where this air is going to be evacuated and how much it smells like marijuana. Yes,

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you will need a charcoal filter—ionizers won't kill the smell during flowering. Vent the air from the growroom out the window or somewhere else outside. (Sometimes you can vent it into the bathroom if there's an exhaust fan there you can keep on, but it's best to expel dank air outdoors.) Also, your neighbors are likely to get suspicious if they smell marijuana, so make sure the carbon filter is in perfect working condition at all times.

FLUORESCENT FIASCO

A friend and I are making a low-budget growroom, and we want to use fluorescent lights. Our room is 117 square feet (9' x 13' x 7'), and we plan to place 4-foot, 40-watt bulbs along the walls 16 inches from the floor, plus 48 bulbs on the ceiling and eight 150-watt halogen bulbs around the room, for a total of 6,320 watts (or 54 watts per square foot). We also plan to use two wall-mounted air conditioners and carbon filters. Will this work?

*High for Life
Miami, FL*

Dear High for Life,
Placing so many fluorescent fixtures in one room will be a nightmare. I know, because one of the first rooms I set up in the 1970s used 48 80-watt fluorescent fixtures, and that room was a total failure. Not only do you have to suspend all those fixtures, but you have to connect them with electrical wire. From your description, it sounds like you'll have a total of 64 fixtures containing two 40-watt fluorescent lights, plus eight 150-watt halogen lamps. That's a grand total of 72 light fixtures to hang in the room! If you want to spend all your time playing around with electrical connections, wires, ballasts and bulbs, continue with this plan. Also, those 150-watt halogen lamps will produce very little useable light for plant growth, besides being very inefficient. (Keep in mind that a halogen bulb is not the same as a metal halide

bulb, which is great for growing marijuana.)

My advice is to forget the whole fluorescent/halogen setup. Purchase a couple of 600-watt HPS lamps for flowering and a 400-watt MH light for seedlings, clones, vegetative plants and mothers. Divide the room into two uneven sections; the vegetative room should occupy 25% to 35% of the space occupied by the flowering room. Spend your time and energy setting up these three lamps, as well as a good air-circulation and ventilation system, and then start growing. That way, all you'll have to concentrate on is giving your plants what they need in order to grow.

HUMIDORS AND FERTILIZER

How come I never see anything about cigar humidors and pot? I've been using one for years and I love it!

Also, the directions for Rapid Gro, Miracle Gro, etc., say to use 0.05 teaspoon per gallon of water, but they don't tell you how much water to put on each plant! I give my plants about two cups of water; then, after 20 minutes, I give them one cup of nutrients. This is for a plant 3 feet tall and growing in a 5-gallon pot. Is that too much?

*Tom P.
Las Vegas, NV*

Dear Tom,
Good point: Humidors are a great place to store your stash. In fact, at a recent trade fair—Sanfer-Weed, in Pamplona, Spain—there was a business selling humidors for that express purpose. You can find humidors at any fine cigar store or order them on-line. Check tampahumidor.com for deals.

As for your second question, you can use those inexpensive, run-of-the-mill fertilizers if you want; they grow okay plants. But I advise you to spend a couple more bucks and buy a quality hydroponic fertilizer to feed your prize ladies. The extra expense will pay off with fewer prob-

lems and a heavier harvest.

It's a good move to water your plants first and then give them some fertilizer with the next watering 20 minutes later. This allows the roots and soil to get moist, which means the fertilizer will be taken in a little quicker. You should water the plants so that *all* the soil gets good and wet. This requires that about 10% of the water you put in at the top of the pot drains out the bottom. You may want to lightly cultivate the soil surface so that the water penetrates evenly. My guess is that you haven't been giving your plants enough water. A 5-gallon bucket holds a lot of water, and a healthy, 3-foot-tall plant can easily use 1 to 2 quarts of water per day, but you're giving them 3 cups (or 0.75 quarts) of water. Give the garden a good drenching; once the soil is nice and wet, you should only have to water every other day—possibly less. The important thing to remember is to let 10% of the water drain out the bottom.

NEWBIE ON A BUDGET

I want to grow, but I have no experience, can't afford the equipment and don't have much space. Can you give me some information on growing?

MOAM
Charleston, SC

Dear MOAM,

You'll have to change your situation a little before you're able to grow great cannabis. The least expensive way to grow is to get some seeds from a friend (or from a bag of marijuana you like) and plant them outdoors. Sunlight is free; all you need to do is find a safe, secure place to grow. Your expenses will be minimal: a little bit of store-bought potting soil and some fertilizer. Oh, yes—and you'll also need to continue reading *HIGH TIMES*. Your best bet is to splurge on a good grow guide. Call up the advertisers in *HIGH TIMES* and ask questions about the books they sell. A good grow guide is worth 10 times its weight in buds!

If you want to grow indoors, you'll need some more equipment. You should budget from \$100 to \$1,000 to get started. The cheapest set-up employs a 65-watt compact fluorescent lamp (CFL). You'll be able to grow 2 to 4 plants under this bulb—but remember, these plants won't develop giant buds. You'll also need a fan, some pots, soil, fertilizer, a watering can, a thermometer and a hygrometer. You may be able to scrounge up these things around the house or buy them secondhand. Or you might think about getting a part-time job to earn enough money to pay for this stuff. ✨

Jorge Cervantes is the author of *Marijuana Horticulture: The Indoor/Outdoor Medical Grower's Bible* (January 2006), *Jorge Cervantes' Ultimate Grow DVD* (shot in BC) and *Jorge Cervantes' Ultimate Grow DVD II* (shot in Spain), *Indoor Marijuana Horticulture: The Indoor Bible*, *Marijuana Indoors: Five Easy Gardens*, *Marijuana Outdoors: Guerrilla Growing* and *Jorge's Rx*. He writes for 20 magazines in seven languages. Jorge's books are published in Dutch, English, French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish. Hit marijuana-growing.com for more information.

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GARDEN CALENDAR



OUTDOORS

Order seed catalogs and surf the Internet for seeds. When you're an outdoor grower stuck indoors, the days are long and lonely. Check the Internet to see what new strains are available. You can also make a ski or snowboard trip to Canada and pick up a few packs of seeds along the way.

Few Canadian vendors will send seeds to the US these days—most have heard about Marc Emery's arrest and requested extradition by US authorities for selling cannabis seeds to the States. (Keep updated on Marc's situation at cannabisculture.com.) But you can still purchase seeds in Spain, Holland and the UK direct from retailers.

Check on your stored seeds. Always keep seeds in a cool, dry, dark place. Seeds stored in a refrigerator should be kept in an airtight container with moisture-absorbing silicon crystals. The humidity in the storage container should be as low as possible (don't forget that humidity rises when the temperature inside a refrigerator drops). Remove the silicon packets regularly to dry out before replacing. Dry seeds stay viable much longer.

Stored buds should also be checked regularly. Buds will develop mold if they're stored in humid conditions or weren't dried completely before storage. Examine your buds for mold with a magnifying glass or a low-powered microscope. Many times, moldy buds can be made into water hash—but people with respiratory problems should just toss them out.

Look around for new guerrilla-garden sites. Scour the countryside to find as many new planting spots as possible. February is a wonderful time for this, because many of the trees have no leaves and you can see all the "safe"

planting plots. It's also much easier to scout out the hidden undergrowth for that perfect planting spot this month. Remember, the sun's angle in the sky will be much higher during the summer, so take that into account when siting your plots.

Plant seeds now in Southern California and other warm regions. Start seeds and clones indoors to set out later. Set seedlings outside or under the cover of a greenhouse when days are warm, but move indoors if nights are cool. Give seedlings 14 hours of light and 10 hours of darkness to increase the ratio of female to male plants.

INDOORS

February is often the coldest month in the Northern Hemisphere. Miserably cold outdoor weather plagues most climates, but this is perfect indoor-growing weather. Humidity outdoors is often high when the temperatures drop, so be sure to pre-heat outdoor air when ushering it indoors to the growroom. Direct pre-warmed intake air near the floor so that it doesn't blow directly on plants.

Electric furnaces and wood stoves lower the humidity as they warm the air, but gas and oil furnaces increase it. Keep an eye on humidity both day and night. Measure it 30 to 60 minutes after the lights go out to get the most dynamic readings. Try to keep the humidity at 50% in the flowering room. Keep vent fans on at night to control humidity.

Cold-air leaks in the growroom will slow growth. A back draft could flow through the vent fan's outlet. Minimize this draft by baffling the outlet, or install a leaf valve to prevent unwanted airflow.

Light the CO₂ generator to increase levels of carbon dioxide and add heat to the room. CO₂ is most

beneficial during seedling and vegetative growth. A by-product of burning a fossil fuel is humidity, so set the timer on the exhaust fan to vent the room at regular intervals and expel humid air.

Hot growroom air blowing outdoors will melt snow and ice, create vapor clouds and raise eyebrows. This air can also transport the odor of flowering marijuana into the neighborhood. Vent dank growroom air up through the chimney or a roof vent—air vented above the house will generally stay safely above the olfactory sense of passers-by.

Take regular temperature readings of the nutrient solution. If the reservoir is on a cold concrete floor, heat will be sucked from the solution. Move the reservoir up off the floor, or add an aquarium heater to keep the temperature of the solution at about 60°F. Definitely keep the temperature above 50°F, but don't let it rise too much above 60°F in order to avoid problems.

Cold air stays near the floor, and hot air rises and stratifies near the top of the room. Often, the temperature differential can be as much as 10°F between the ceiling and floor of a growroom. This air-temperature differential slows plant growth, attracts pests and diseases, and weakens plants. Position the fans so that they keep the air in the room circulating from top to bottom.

Spider mites and other insects will try to sneak into your warm, inviting growroom now. Inspect leaf undersides for these little pests and their eggs. Check soil and roots for signs of root rot.

Check the EC (ppm) and pH of the runoff nutrient solution from the bottom of pots. If the concentration of nutrients draining out the bottom is higher than the input solution, there is a toxic buildup of nutrients in the soil. Leach the soil of built-up excess fertilizer every month to avoid problems. Flush with three times the volume of water as the volume of growing medium. This will prevent many nutrient problems later.

Check and change charcoal filters, or use an ozone generator to remove odors and discourage pests and diseases. Keep humidity at or below 50% to ensure that the carbon filters absorb odors.

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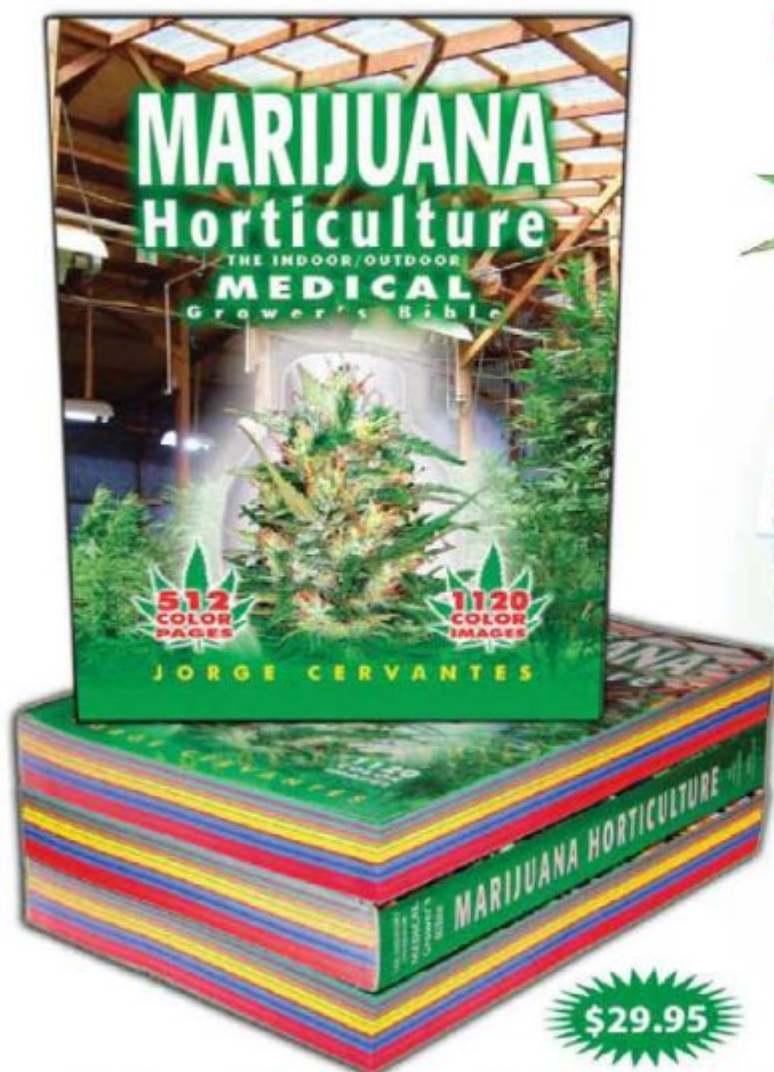
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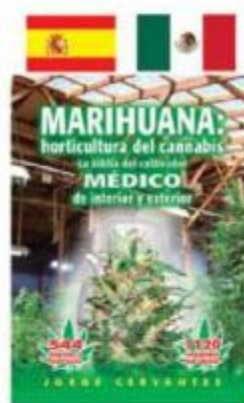


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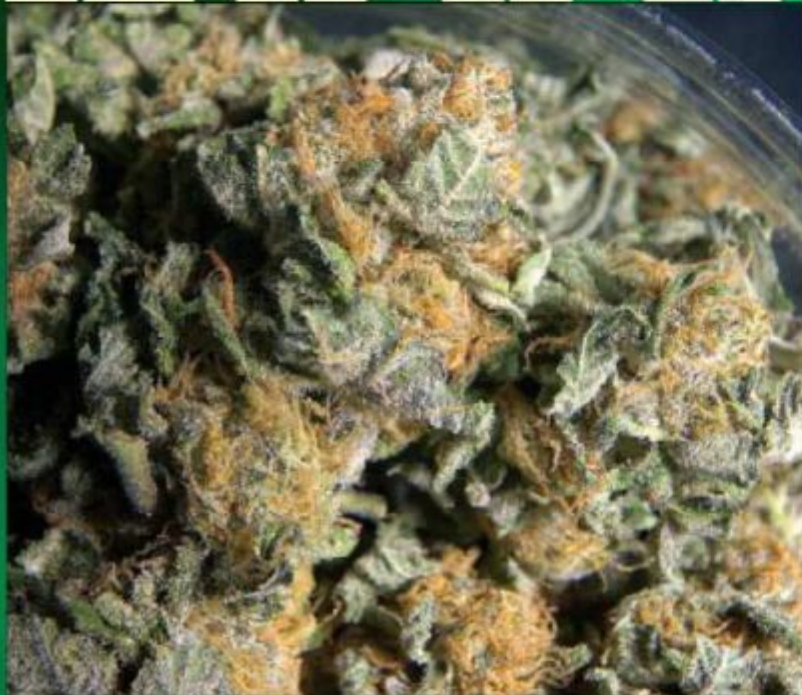
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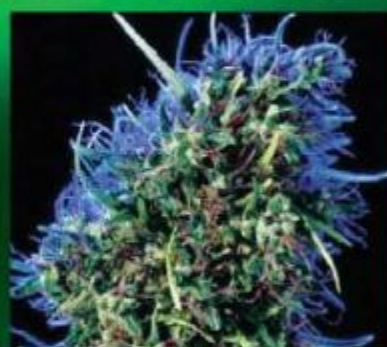
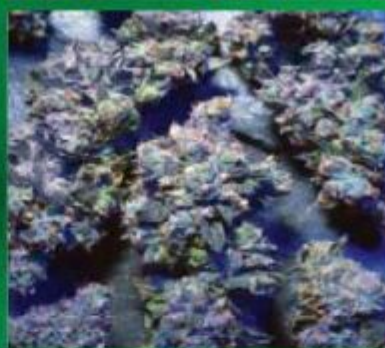
HIGH TIMES
OCTOBER 2009

INDOOR
Indoor growing is a controlled environment and is the most consistent way to grow cannabis. It allows you to control the temperature, humidity, and light cycle. This is ideal for growing in areas with harsh weather conditions or for those who want to grow year-round. Indoor growing also allows you to grow in a smaller space, making it a great option for those with limited space.

OUTDOOR
Outdoor growing is a more natural and less expensive way to grow cannabis. It allows you to take advantage of natural light and weather conditions. However, outdoor growing is more susceptible to pests and diseases, and you may not be able to control the environment. Outdoor growing is best for those who have access to a large, sunny outdoor space.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 SEPTEMBER	2 SEPTEMBER	3 SEPTEMBER	4 SEPTEMBER	5 SEPTEMBER	6 SEPTEMBER	7 SEPTEMBER
8 SEPTEMBER	9 SEPTEMBER	10 SEPTEMBER	11 SEPTEMBER	12 SEPTEMBER	13 SEPTEMBER	14 SEPTEMBER
15 SEPTEMBER	16 SEPTEMBER	17 SEPTEMBER	18 SEPTEMBER	19 SEPTEMBER	20 SEPTEMBER	21 SEPTEMBER
22 SEPTEMBER	23 SEPTEMBER	24 SEPTEMBER	25 SEPTEMBER	26 SEPTEMBER	27 SEPTEMBER	28 SEPTEMBER
29 SEPTEMBER	30 SEPTEMBER	1 OCTOBER	2 OCTOBER	3 OCTOBER	4 OCTOBER	5 OCTOBER
6 OCTOBER	7 OCTOBER	8 OCTOBER	9 OCTOBER	10 OCTOBER	11 OCTOBER	12 OCTOBER
13 OCTOBER	14 OCTOBER	15 OCTOBER	16 OCTOBER	17 OCTOBER	18 OCTOBER	19 OCTOBER
20 OCTOBER	21 OCTOBER	22 OCTOBER	23 OCTOBER	24 OCTOBER	25 OCTOBER	26 OCTOBER
27 OCTOBER	28 OCTOBER	29 OCTOBER	30 OCTOBER	31 OCTOBER		

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INDOOR GROW TIP

Stop fertilizing at least a week before harvest. Many growers stop fertilizing two or more weeks before harvest. Continue to fertilize with a super-bloom formula high in phosphorus and potassium and very low nitrogen if you plan to harvest next month.

Ever wonder just how easy it might be to grow your own marijuana? Thinking of starting your own private garden this year? Worried that you might fall off schedule? This year HIGH TIMES is proud to offer the 2009 Ultimate Grow Calendar, featuring hot tips from the world's foremost cannabis cultivator, Jorge Cervantes. Packed with monthly summaries and daily grow tips, this calendar aims to keep you on track, whether you are growing indoors or outside. Covering everything from temperature control to nutrient programs and featuring simple but timely reminders to look ahead in the season, this year's Grow Calendar is the first of its kind and is sure to be a useful tool for any grow operation. So whether you're in it for head stash or big cash, you can't go wrong with Jorge as your guide to an Ultimate Grow in '09! \$13.99

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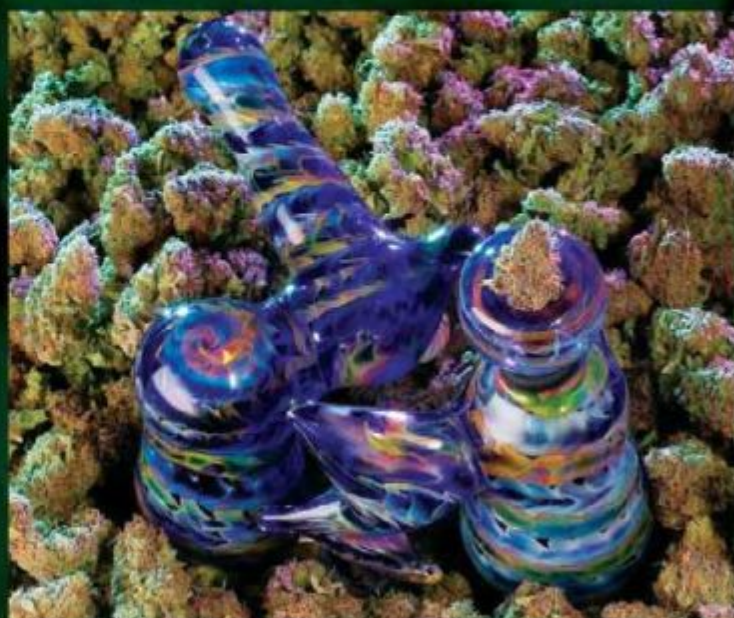
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GLASS OF 2009

Once again, we venture to the world of glass where underground artists create mind-blowing paraphernalia. In many states, their work could get them busted, but you can't stop the glass art express. Check out our homage to glass smokeware featuring the most visionary, extraordinary smoking instruments on the planet—hammers, bubblers and bodacious bongs,—all crafted by the best artists in North America.

SUBCOOL'S SUPER SOIL STEP-BY-STEP

The master breeder and star ganja grower known as Subcool reveals his soil secrets in an incisive guide for stirring up the perfect mix to promote thriving roots and massive colas.

THE WIZARD OF BUZZ

Take a peek behind the curtain. You'll discover a lush garden filled with new strains, grown by a veritable sorcerer of indoor cultivation. He'll unveil techniques for producing bigger harvests—faster than you can click your heels together!

"I SMOKED POT WITH THE GOVERNATOR"

Tommy Chong, world's most famous pothead, tells the true story of how he got high with Arnold Schwarzenegger in the late 1960's while hanging out at the original Gold's Gym in Venice Beach, CA.

HAIL CALGARY!

The first-ever Alberta Cup, highlighted by 10 stellar Canadian strains, was held in Calgary, a city where activists are quietly carving out a place for cannabis in cowboy country.

PEOPLE OF THE HEMP

Two Native American brothers recently busted for cultivation claim that cannabis use is part of their heritage and want their "medicine" returned. Are they really "the people of the hemp" as they say? Senior Editor Dan Skye investigates a compelling case of spiritual rights.

PLUS: HIGH TIMES talks buds and beats with hip-hop legend Del tha Funkee Homosapien.

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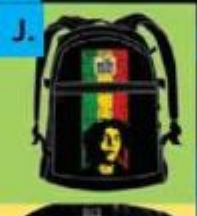
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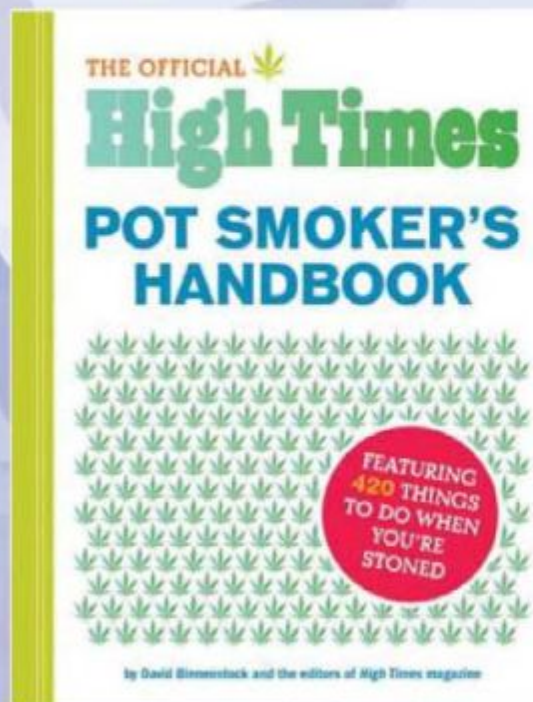
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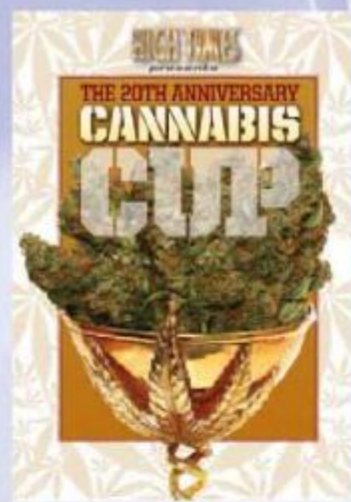


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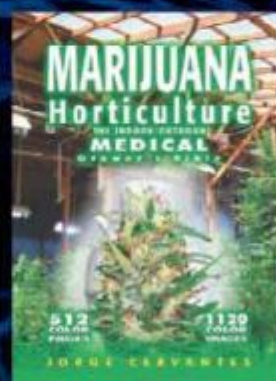
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